

Praktikumsbericht

Auslandspraktikum

Angaben zur Person und zum Praktikum der/des Studierenden

Studienfach: Informatik mit integriertem Anwendungsfach

Bachelor/Master/Staatsexamen: Bachelor

Praktikumszeitraum: 01.04.25 – 12.09.25

Praktikumsort: Peking

Praktikumsinstitution: BMW China Services

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Vorgaben:

- Der Praktikumsbericht sollte mindestens 4 Seiten lang sein (Times New Roman, 12pt, 1.5 Zeilenabstand)
- Wenn Sie Namen nennen möchten, geben Sie bitte nicht den vollen Namen der Person an. Nutzen Sie nur den Vornamen oder Abkürzungen wie „L.“.
- Bitte beachten Sie bei der Integration von Fotos, dass Ihr Bericht bei der Veröffentlichung und der damit einhergehenden Verbreitung des Bildmaterials gegebenenfalls die Einwilligung der fotografierten Person/en erfordert.
- Speichern Sie Ihren Bericht als Word-Dokument (max. Dateigröße: 8 MB) und laden Sie ihn auf MoveON hoch.
- Falls Sie ein wenig Inspiration für Ihren eigenen Bericht suchen oder Ihre Erfahrungen mit denen anderer Studierender vergleichen möchten, werfen Sie gerne einen Blick auf unsere [Website](#).

Sie können Ihren Praktikumsbericht beispielsweise wie folgt strukturieren:

1. Planung und Vorbereitung (z.B. Bewerbungsprozess, Organisation der Unterkunft, Sprachkurs)
2. Praktikumsverlauf (Aufgaben, typischer Arbeitstag, Auslastung)
3. Soziale Kontakte
4. Alltag und Freizeit
5. Kosten und Finanzierung (Lebenshaltungskosten, Tipps für Einkäufe)
6. Praktikum und Studium (Konnten Sie im Studium Erlerntes umsetzen, Wie haben sich durch das Praktikum Ihre Studienmotivation und/oder Ihre Einstellung zum künftigen Beruf geändert)
7. Fazit (wurden Ihre Erwartungen erfüllt, Herausforderungen, besonders prägende Erfahrungen, Tipps an zukünftige Praktikanten und Praktikantinnen)

Internship Report BCS

Introduction

I completed my internship at BMW China Services (BCS) in Beijing, where I gained first-hand experience in an international working environment at the intersection of technology and business. The internship took place at the BMW Research and Development Center (R&D Center), one of BMW's most important hubs for innovation and collaboration in China.

During my internship, I was assigned to the EC-10 department, which is responsible for Planning, Steering and IT. The division consists of the Digitalization China Team and the key account unit for several core departments at BMW China. The Digitalization Team plays a central role in advancing digital transformation within the company by developing and implementing innovative IT solutions that optimize processes and improve efficiency across different business units. At the same time, the department coordinates with other divisions through its key account function, ensuring that specific business needs are addressed in alignment with BMW's overall strategic goals.

Generally, the EC-10 department is responsible for steering and managing the implementation of the R&D strategy in China, procedural contract management for BMW Group joint venture contracts in China and strategically developing and implementing processes and procedures for the China region.

Within this framework, I contributed both to digitalization projects and to budget-related tasks. The exposure to both technical and financial workstreams gave me a comprehensive perspective on how technological innovation and financial management are interlinked in a multinational corporation.

Application and Preparation Process

I applied for the internship through a personal recommendation from my previous working student position at BMW in Munich. My application was forwarded directly to my future supervisor in China, with whom I had an initial introduction call. Later, during one of his business trips to Germany, we met in person to discuss the opportunity in more detail.

Once the application was confirmed, both BMW HR in China and the BMW Visa Office guided me through the documentation process. HR required documents such as the official BMW invitation letter, the internship agreement, my certificate of enrollment, student ID, passport, and residence permit. The Visa Office required proof of studies, accommodation registration, passport photos, and the official company letter.

Finding accommodation in Beijing proved to be easier thanks to the strong support of my colleagues. With their help, I was able to navigate the platform “Ziroom,” which is widely used in China for short- and long-term rentals. Communication with local agents, often through automatic translation tools on WeChat, could be challenging, but my colleagues provided invaluable assistance in clarifying rental terms and fees. Compared to Germany, apartment searches in Beijing tend to be more spontaneous, with two weeks often being sufficient to secure housing.

Although I did not take formal language courses, I found it very useful to learn basic numbers and hand signals, which helped greatly in everyday interactions such as ordering food at markets or restaurants. While not essential, adopting simple language habits made daily life smoother and enriched my cultural experience.

Internship Experience

At the start of my internship, I was warmly welcomed by my team leader, and introduced to the colleagues in the department. I received my work equipment, set up my workstation, and was guided through the current IT projects by my colleague and working buddy. In parallel, I received a first introduction to budget-related work, by another colleague guiding me through the results of the previous budget workshop.

My first major project focused on supporting the rollout of a new warehouse management system at the R&D Center. As part of the central IT team, I conducted research, analyzed existing workflows, collected improvement requirements, and tested possible replacement systems. The project concluded with the successful implementation of the new system at the end of June. This experience was especially valuable, as it allowed me to contribute directly from the beginning, establish contacts beyond my department, and gain insight into the entire process from problem identification to implementation.

A particularly exciting aspect of my internship was the involvement in AI-related projects. Prior to my arrival, the team had launched a company-wide AI app for BMW China, designed to integrate multiple AI features into one platform. One of the new ideas was to automatically generate transcripts of Teams meetings, which could then be queried via a chatbot. I was able to follow and contribute to the process from ideation and research to implementation, deepening my understanding of applied AI in a corporate environment.

Another highlight was my participation in organizing the department's annual workshop. I was actively involved in preparing presentations, searching for locations, and planning team activities. Together with my colleagues, I helped conceptualize the IT session, which included hands-on exercises with AI tools. I particularly appreciated the trust placed in me by the team, as I was given a high degree of freedom to contribute ideas and take on responsibilities.

In addition to these project-based tasks, I also supported the team in various communication activities. This included maintaining and updating intranet pages to ensure that internal information was accurate and accessible, as well as preparing presentations for monthly internal updates, department representation, and special events. I also designed posters to promote events, which gave me the opportunity to work more creatively alongside my technical responsibilities.

Toward the end of my internship, I was tasked with two further projects. The first was to consolidate and structure annual travel expenses in Excel, providing a clearer overview for the department and management. The second involved developing a central access app for workshop colleagues at the R&D Center. The idea was to create a single interface where users could easily navigate to the relevant applications, instead of logging into each one separately. While I was not able to fully implement all access paths within the given timeframe, I successfully designed the interface and laid the foundation for further development.

Social Integration

Arriving in Beijing two weeks before the internship started gave me the opportunity to settle in and connect with local communities. Joining running groups and other sports activities via WeChat helped me quickly build a social network. Once the internship began, I also developed strong connections with colleagues, as well as with other interns at the R&D Center, which created a supportive environment both professionally and socially.

I also experienced that local residents were often curious and welcoming toward international students. Casual encounters in parks or cafés sometimes led to spontaneous invitations, allowing me to get to know locals on a more personal level.

Daily Life and Leisure

Spending time in China outside of work offered many opportunities to explore the country's diversity. Its long history, cultural richness, and very different regional landscapes make it a fascinating place to live and travel.

There are numerous exciting travel destinations across China, and during my internship I was able to visit some of them. For example, Sichuan is well known for its distinctive cuisine and cultural traditions, Guangxi stands out for its impressive karst mountains around Yangshuo, Hunan is home to the sandstone peaks of Zhangjiajie, and Chongqing is recognized as a fast-growing urban center with a unique setting along the Yangtze River.

Living in Beijing itself was equally exciting. As the capital, it combines political and historical importance with a very dynamic modern lifestyle. From visiting temples, the Forbidden City, or museums to exploring the 798 Art District, there was always something new to discover. In addition, the Great Wall lies just outside the city and can be reached easily on day trips. Tours and hikes along different sections of the Wall are a highlight which I find highly recommendable.

Internship and Academic Relevance

The combination of IT-focused projects and financial tasks within the department provided me with insights highly relevant for my future academic path. As I plan to pursue a Master's degree in Business Informatics, the opportunity to work on programming tasks and IT solutions was particularly valuable, as it allowed me to apply and expand my technical knowledge. At the same time, I learned how budgets, forecasts, and resource allocations are handled in practice, strengthening my business understanding.

This dual perspective not only increased my motivation for further studies but also helped me identify areas in which I want to deepen my knowledge to perform more effectively in professional contexts.

Conclusion

Overall, this internship was a truly rewarding and enriching experience. I thoroughly enjoyed working with my colleagues, learning about the Chinese working culture, and contributing to meaningful projects at BMW China Services. Living in China at a young age was both a professional and personal privilege, as it broadened my cultural understanding and strengthened my adaptability.

I am very grateful for the trust and support I received from my team, and I will always look back at this period as an important milestone in my life. I would gladly recommend such an experience to any student seeking international exposure, and I hope that my path will cross again with BMW and my colleagues in the future.