

# Final report

(Erasmus+ Internships – SMP)

## Personal data and general information on the internship

Subject of studies:	Course of studies
<u>Computer science</u>	(Bachelor/Master/Staatsex.):
–	<u>Bachelor</u>
Time of internship:	Place of internship:
<u>02.11.2020 – 26.02.2021</u>	<u>Manchester, United Kingdom</u>
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„Internship title“ (z.B. „Internship at the Goethe Institute London in the library department“):	
<u>Web developer intern</u>	
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I took the decision for an internship abroad early at the beginning of my studies. Since Germany is not my home country, I already know the value of studying abroad. And having this experience, I wanted to extend it with an internship in another country.

The search for an internship was not easy at all. I first prioritized paid internships until I discovered about the Erasmus-scholarship. Then I became more flexible in my requirements. Although I started almost 4 months before the planned start date and sent about 100 applications I had only few replies and even fewer positive answers. One of the main difficulties was the need of a visa for most of the countries. And not every company wants to take the trouble to accompany the student by this procedure. I searched on various channels: LMU job board, LinkedIn, directly on the career website of some companies and some placement portals specialized for abroad internship (the list can be found on the website of “Student und Arbeitsmarkt”) ... Among these, the website erasmusintern.org especially helped me by the search of an internship placement. Although there are multiple job offers that sometimes do not look serious (they do not reply), there are some interesting.

I finally received a placement from the digital agency Nuttersons in Manchester, UK. The application process was quite long. I sent my application via email to the company, and I received a reply in the following days, requesting me to complete an online assessment to verify my English level. After a few weeks, the company got back to me requesting me to develop a webpage to evaluate my technical know-how. After having submitted the homepage, I received an invitation for an online interview with the HR-personal. One week after this first interview, I have been invited to a second interview with my future supervisor, during which they confirmed me I have the post.

Additionally, to the search for an internship (which was for me probably the second most difficult task), I had different points to organize in advance. After having received an internship place, I had to apply for a visa since I am not an EU-citizen. For the visa-application, I especially needed one document (certificate of sponsorship) that

I also had to apply many weeks before. At the same time, I had to sign for an abroad medical insurance and started to search for a room. (It was not so hard to find a room compared to Munich.) I also had to open a new bank account to get a MasterCard card, with which I could pay abroad and exchange money at good rates. (Although it was also possible to order a credit card by my current bank, I have chosen the other alternative for costs efficiency). I did not attend to any language course before the internship. However, in my first semesters, I attended some English courses at the LMU and took part to activities in the Erasmus student-organization (MESA).

For the preparation of my journey abroad, I also wanted to attend an intercultural seminar at the LMU from SINIK before traveling. However due to COVID it has been canceled.

The preparation was many-sided and took quite long time. Due to the lack of information and the COVID-situation I had to postpone my internship planned in April to November. However, perseverance and flexibility were great assets for me. Therefore, I can say that the organization was satisfactory.

The host company offered me an internship as a web-developer. During the internship, my main tasks were to design and to develop several new websites. There were also multiple existing websites that I had to maintain. I did not feel fully occupied during the internship. It may however be because I completed really fast all my tasks.

With the COVID-situation, I do not know if I really experienced a typical working day. In the morning, I arrived at the office and greet all colleagues. Then I started to work on all my tasks on my desk, eventually I had to talk to some colleagues for some help in some tasks or even just for some small talk. And at midday, I went out with some other interns for lunch and often for a walk. And then the rest of the day was spent on continuing working on my tasks.

Enough support has been provided during the whole internship. I had a weekly meeting of one to two hour(s) with my supervisor to discuss about my achievements and new tasks. The company proposed some software and previous works to help me complete tasks.

I learned how to design with Adobe XD while looking at the different designs they created, by watching them by working and by asking them how they came to such ideas and designs.

I may have improved my language skills (especially in small talks), but I do not have the feeling that my language skills improved drastically.

To find an accommodation was not such a tough task, I found my accommodation by searching on the platform spareroom.co.uk. The accommodation compared to the ones in Germany was quite small and not really refurbished for the price. But it was one of the well maintained (if not the most maintained) I have found. Rooms are generally quite old in comparison to Munich, although the prices are almost the same as in Munich.

This platform particularly helped me. I also must admit that it is much easier to find a room through it. You can just create an ad about you searching a room and people will contact you. (What would almost never happen in Munich).

From the host institution or from any other, I did not receive any special help, only some tips on the location where I should emphasize by search.

The interaction with colleagues at the workplace developed quite well up to January. We saw us every day and discussed frequently. I visited the city with other interns. Only with one colleague, I sometimes had the feeling that she did not enjoy my feedbacks. But except that, it was great. We had a Christmas party with pizzas, Christmas decoration and gifts. Before I leave the city, I also had a farewell “party”.

With the local population (outside the internship) I could not really establish much contact due to COVID-situation. Only with my roommates I had regular interaction.

Outside of the workplace, I spent my free time with my roommates (cooking, talking, playing card games), and walking around in parks (There are various parks in Manchester).

I was not able to attend any sports or language class due to the governmental restrictions.

The public transport is a bit like the one in Munich with subways, buses, trams... One thing I found a bit confusing was the fact that there are different bus agencies, and each bus agency has its own tariffs. And I could not find any website with a good overview about everything. In many buses there was also no board showing the next station, so you would have to check in a map on your smartphone to know when you should get out.

The first weeks, I used to travel with the bus. (However, since my internship place was quite near, I bought a bike to which I traveled.

For future students interested in a journey in Manchester, I would give the following advice. If the distance from home to work/university is not so far, I would suggest riding by bicycle. The cycle paths are well distinguished in the city, one is almost as fast as the bus (since it makes so many stops) and you are quite flexible if you want to visit the city. However, the criminality feels a bit higher as in Munich. Therefore, it is important to always lock the bicycle when you don't look at it and remove everything that's removable when you park. The best option would be to keep it inside the house. (What many people do).

About the finances, the cost of living was almost the same as in Munich. (Accommodation, food, shopping...). Maybe only the transports are a bit expensive, but I guess it might be because I could not benefit of all the advantages of students,

I did not receive any salary.

I spent 300 Pounds for a single room, which can be considered as an average price for a middle standing.

I unfortunately have no special tips on how to do shopping since I could not do so much.

I was a bit able to apply what I learned during your studies or in previous practical experience. I could apply some fundamentals learned during my studies (but I think I can do it almost everywhere) but not so much since my studies were not focused on it. Moreover, I have certainly applied much knowledge gained from previous practical experience.

The internship has not had special effects on my desired future lifepath. My motivation to study has always been great and the internship did not change it so much. About my future profession, it did not especially help me because the fields in which I worked are interesting, but I do not feel this fire burning inside of me.

My expectations for this experience were diverse and almost all of them have been fulfilled.

I assumed that the travel would be a bit difficult, which was not the case. I also presumed that I would improve my language skills - I have learned some new expressions and understood the difference between some words.

I also looked forward to learning more about the British culture and the British system (social, political, maybe health, ...) – I experienced some contrast with the German culture and learned some fun facts about the UK (i.e., all the swans belong to the queen and to hurt them is an offense against her).

I wished to win some contacts. – I am still in contact with some colleagues and roommates.

I also expected to learn more about design by the company. – I had an introduction in a design software (Adobe XD). I also wish to have sympathetic roommates. – They were very friendly.

There was no real challenge or problem during the internship except the lockdown, but this did not depend on me so it could not have been avoided. However, it was still possible to gain from it. For it, I had to stay optimistic, see the positive and try to see as much as possible.

Depending on the expectations of a student, I could recommend this position to him. If the student already has strong knowledge in both fields, it might not be interesting for him. However, if he is complete fresh in the domain and wants to learn the basics of web-development and/or web-design, it would be a great opportunity for him. The receiving institution would certainly be willing to accept future interns. Also, in the fields of human resource or photography.

COVID particularly influenced me as almost everyone, I guess. Beyond the contents of my internship, in these four months in Manchester I gained many contacts with different backgrounds, I have experienced another society a little more capitalist oriented and learned other ways of thinking.