



## Gaining experience in magnetics as well as in German culture *Research and development in Berlin*

**Arthur Walther**

**Arthur Walther was given the opportunity to live and work in Berlin through the USA Interns-Program which is one of the projects of the Steuben-Schurz-Society. He is a student at the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis His major field is Chemie-Ingenieurswesen.**

This summer I was given the opportunity to live and work in Berlin through the USA Interns Program. I worked at a small magnetics firm, BOGEN ELECTRONIC, in the research and development department, gaining experience and applying my studies in chemical engineering.



**Arthur Walther at work Research and development and gaining experience in chemical engineering and magnetics**

hometown and I still had family and many friends there. Berlin is also one of the world's most culture-rich, exciting, vibrant cities.



**Arthur (left) with friends in Berlin**

Having immigrated to the US from Germany in 2005 and having traveled back frequently since, I still feel very much attached to the German culture. Missing the lifestyle and wanting to visit my extensive family and old friends, I made it my goal to spend the summer in Germany. I also wanted to do it in a manner that would supplement and help my studies and career plans.

I heard about the USA Interns program from *Adam Pagel*, CSE Study Abroad Coordinator at my University and decided to apply. With much help from *Juliane Adameit* and *Adam Pagel*, I obtained an interview with the head of my future company BOGEN ELECTRONIC in Zehlendorf, Berlin and was hired on the spot. I was very lucky to get a spot in Berlin since that is my

I arrived in Berlin on May 16 and stayed with my uncle and his family for the first two weeks before moving into a Wohngemeinschaft in a house on June 1. The WG was a great fit because it was only a ten minute bike ride from work and the girl whose room I subleased was gone during pretty much the same timeframe that I spent there. I shared the house with other young people, all under thirty that were either studying or had recently finished their studies. I quickly became friends with my housemates and spent many evenings barbecuing, partying, watching movies, soccer, or shows, and playing soccer.

My internship involved many specialized projects while also exposing me to many other parts and functions of the company. Being a chemical engineering student, I have only finished first-year physics. So when I arrived at this specialized magnetics applications firm, I initially spent time studying up on magnetism and learning how the company operates and how it applies the concepts.

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Once studied up, I worked on research projects in a new direction the company wanted to head. Amongst other projects, I created comparative spreadsheets and advised the company on new machinery needed, set up price lists for materials, reached out to other companies about potential cooperative research projects and grants, created state-of-the-art patent reports, and worked on expanding BOGEN's potential production to meet the needs of a confidential large client requiring a specialized, new application of the company's specialty

I was also able to experience and assist the day-to-day operations of the warehouse, production, and sales management. This really helped me understand how a smaller business like BOGEN functions. Getting to know my coworkers helped me feel comfortable in a very formal work environment and I ended up going out to bars and even a soccer game with some of them. And even though work was sometimes stressful, sometimes boring, I gained a lot of experience, knowledge about the industry, and many friends and memories.

I used the weekends for many trips to visit family members across different parts of Germany. I have many young cousins that were born in recent years that I was finally able to see and celebrated my great

grandma's 87th birthday with her. My travels took to me to Rostock, Hamburg, Frankfurt, Bonn/Cologne and Neubrandenburg. Of course I also spent many weekends in Berlin checking out some popular attractions, events, and the crazy nightlife. It was really nice to see my whole family this summer, something only made possible by my extended stay in Germany through USA Interns.

Having lived in Germany prior to this summer, I was not immersed in a completely new culture like some of the other USA Interns. However, working in Berlin and not living with my family was truly something new and exciting. I was also able to see parts of Germany that I had never visited before! USA Interns truly presented me with an amazing opportunity this summer.

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