

My Berlin summer internship with Siemens AG Jeremiah Kornder

Jeremiah Kornder, studying Mechanical Engineering at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, had the chance to get a 2011-Internship with Siemens in Berlin. He reports to us how both, Berlin and Siemens turned out to be most interesting experiences – and challenges

It had always been a dream of mine to live and work in Germany. In high school I had the opportunity to take a foreign language and the choices were Spanish with a mediocre teacher and students who didn't care about the language or German with a teacher

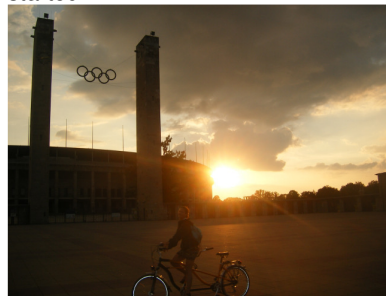


who won awards year after year and had brought several student groups to Germany. To me, the choice was easy. Also, my father always talked about our German heritage and spoke a little German, so even better, right?

As I was nearing the end of my college career at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, it wasn't looking like I would be fulfilling my dream any time soon. That all changed when a friend of mine sent me a link from our college's foreign exchange office.

'Hey, check this out. You speak German, right? I found this internship opportunity on the U of M website.' My buddy Chris showed me the link and quickly I was in contact with Mr. Adam Pagel and Juliane Adameit with USA Interns. After getting this news and applying I found out in March that they

were able to place me with *Siemens* this summer. Even better I was also able to do a three week course in Switzerland immediately after the semester and before my internship started.



So, on June 4th I set off on my adventure via train to Berlin from Winterthur, Schweiz not knowing anything, other than that I would be starting work in ten days and still hadn't found a place to live! I was in for an adventure ...

I took the ICE train all the way from Winterthur and arrived in Berlin eight hours later. I had googled the locations of some hostels and began my trek through Berlin with my leather briefcase and giant suitcase filled with clothes, books and souvenirs from Switzerland. I found my hostel and set up camp. The hunt was on for finding a place to live and to discover the city. While at the hostel, I met people from all over the world of all ages, and experiences.

I found housing with a company called *Arwobau* after days of partying. The place was small, but cheap and close to where I would be working in north western Berlin.

At my internship with *Siemens* I got to work on some of their *Finite Element Modeling* software for designing huge electric rotary motors. The program was pretty awesome and could predict where vibrations would be largest and at what angular

frequencies. Pretty geeky, but pretty interesting, too.

While working on this project I also got to meet other interns that were working there from the USA. They were from the best colleges in America such as MIT Stanford, also University of Minnesota students were represented at this particular location of Siemens in Berlin. Often times we would get together and do sight seeing on the weekends. I got to see Potsdam, the TV tower, the Brandenburg Gate, Olympic stadium and much more. At the end of the internship, I thought I could be a tour guide!



My experience in Germany was nothing like I expected. My housing was cramped, but cozy, the work was interesting and the beer was delicious. I would certainly recommend and internship through USA Interns to anyone with some German language skills. It definitely changed my perspective on things, and made me a stronger person. Oh, and when they tell you to find housing early, they mean it

(SSG-USA Interns ja/scha)

