

An Unforgettable Summer Internship in Berlin

During the summer of 2017, I joined the Global Work Attachment Program (GWAP) run by City University and the Student Development Service (SDS). Through the program, I obtained an offer from a fast-growing e-commerce company in Berlin for an international accounting internship and experienced a meaningful summer.

As a business student, I always want to learn more about professional practice in the real world. That was one of my most important reasons for applying for the internship. I hoped that I would be able to use what I learned in the classroom in a professional situation and gain experience that would improve my employability. After several rounds of interviews and a training workshop, I finally received an offer and started this unforgettable internship.

As an accounting intern in the finance department, I was appointed to be in charge of the invoice sorting process. I also helped manage the book-keeping information system and the invoice email account. In performing these tasks, I had to face a large number of documents written in German. Although I did not have any related language background, I did not give up and I wrote in a work journal every day. I made notes about the most common German words, the most important suppliers and the process of invoice approval. After days of practice, I successfully became familiar with the process and was able to handle it on my own. The accounting information system was also totally new to me. However, I did lots of self-initiated "homework," including watching instruction videos and practicing. Through this practice, I became familiar with the tasks and was able to complete the work efficiently using the system.

Through this internship, I not only learnt many technical skills such as dealing with the information system and Microsoft software, but also came to know more about the communication skills needed in a multi-cultural workplace and the importance of teamwork. These benefits of the program have helped me to become a more competent young professional with a clearer career plan. I have also gained a greater understanding of the knowledge I learnt in class. In addition, living in Berlin without my family and acquaintances enhanced my general abilities in everyday life, and exposure to European countries has helped me to further understand global viewpoints with a more open mind.

The improvements in my abilities and mind suggest that taking part in CityU's GWAP had a very positive influence on me. I believe it is beneficial to grasp opportunities with courage. After all, approaching trials with confidence can be our treasure no matter what the outcome is. I really appreciate this opportunity, which helped me to develop myself and prepare for the future.



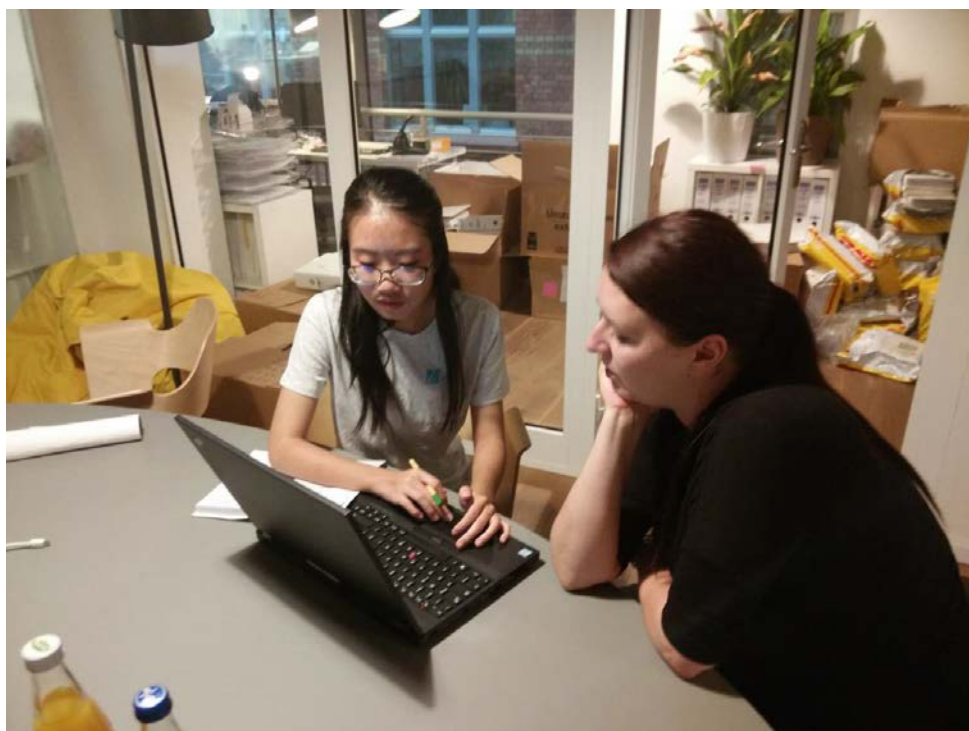
In front of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin



With Finance Team of the company



Friends in the company



Working in the company