

## インターンシップ体験記 (海外インターンシップの場合は英語で記入)

I went to a research branch of a Japanese company in Heidelberg, Germany. I decided the company for my internship about a half year before the departure. I wanted to do my internship in a country where I could communicate with people in English and Europe countries seemed to be better for me because almost all people understand English and many of the countries are safe and comfortable to stay from the aspect of weather. I told my requests above to a professor who were account for overseas internships and he introduced me some companies in Europe countries. At last I selected the Japanese company because I had been there before and knew there were some Japanese staffs. I thought it would be very helpful if there were some people who I could speak to in Japanese in case of emergency. The fact also encouraged me that I had some German friends and some friends who had many knowledges about Germany.

About 1 month before the departure, I faced a problem of visa. I planned to obtain the Working Holiday Visa and I heard the process takes about three weeks. However, there were too many people waiting and it would take more than one month to issue my visa. So, I didn't have much time left to obtain visa and thus I had to rush to the Consulate General in Umeda, Osaka. Thanks to much help from many people, I finally managed to get my visa just two weeks before the departure.

I arrived at Heidelberg at 30th June 2018 and planned to stay in the city for three months (until 30th September). In Heidelberg there are many rooms like flats or guesthouses available for students but many students have difficulty to find their room because rooms are very popular and most of them are always occupied or reserved. For me as well, it was very difficult to find where I could stay for three months. As a result, I cannot find any accommodations to stay the first two weeks. Flats were cheapest but not suitable for me because flats were for people staying long-term. Guesthouses were second cheapest followed by hotels, so guesthouses were most suitable for me but unfortunately no guesthouse room available until 16th July, so I had to find some hotels to stay about two weeks.

I stayed at a hotel (Figure1) in the first week because it would be safe, but

after first week, I planned to stay at a hostel with cheaper price to save money. I expected rooms in a hostel were not so clean like hotel rooms, but when I went into a room I reserved, I was really surprised it was too dirty for me to stay than I imagined. I knew that the room was shared for up to ten people and unlocked all day. I thought it was OK if I appropriately locked my baggage. I never imagined the floor and beds are almost filled with dust and garbage and many bugs on the wall while they said they clean up all beds every day. To make matters worse, there was only one very dirty toilet and shower room in a whole hostel. I gave up to stay the hostel and decided to extend the staying in the hotel where I stayed in the first week. After 16th July, I stayed at a guesthouse (Figure2) for 2 and half months. The room was owned by a landlady and we shared the kitchen, toilet room and bath room. All rooms were always kept clean but sometimes fries were attracted to a garbage box in the kitchen.



Figure 1 The HOTEL room I stayed



Figure 2 Guesthouse room

## インターンシップ体験記 (続き)

During my internship period, I worked five days a week, seven hours a day, according to the German laws. I had a desk and a desktop PC in a students' room. There are eight students in the room.

My major is information networking and I planned to work on my internship research related to IoT, but many of them had other research fields than networking. Some students were working on machine learning, some were architecture and some were economical mathematics, and many of them were master students. They were from various countries such as Switzerland, Italia, India and Syria, but they all were kind and good people and helped me a lot.

I had a lunch with other internship students every day. It was very hard for me to follow their conversations because I'm not good at English. They understood my English was poor so they kindly talked to me a little bit slowly. There were many restaurants around my internship company, like Arabian, Asian, Italian, and German, and most of them have taken-away menus around eight euros. We always bring back our lunch to a kitchen room and talked very much while eating. We talked about politics, cultures and university systems. I surprised many of them would write their master thesis while their internship.



Figure 3 Arabic lunchbox

In Heidelberg, it was very nice weather whole my internship. Sun rises earlier and sets later than Japan because of the high latitude, and sunshine is very strong while daytime. The temperature felt hot while July and August but more comfortable than Japanese summer. It was sunny almost every day but I sometimes had a strong evening shower. In September, after raining for some days in the end of August, temperature fell suddenly. I had to buy an autumn outerwear because I didn't imagine such a cold weather.

About prices, I felt things were more expensive than Japan. Fruits like blueberry or raspberry were a little bit cheaper so I always had some fruits in the refrigerator as snacks. Unlike in Japan, train prices vary depending on the time in Germany. If you buy tickets earlier it will be cheaper. Heidelberg has excellent transportation of trams and buses but they have a fixed price so are expensive for a short travel.



Figure 4 Tram in Heidelberg

In the end, some people think I can listen and speak English fluently because I managed to spend three months in a foreign country, but I went to Germany only because there was an opportunity. I have a TOEIC score of 745 so I can read and write like average students of Osaka University but I rarely trained myself for conversation. What I want to say is do not hesitate to go abroad because of your English skill. You can have many opportunities as you want and such opportunities often have financial supports. And these opportunities are given just while you are a student. Have a nice internship!