



STUDENT DETAILS

University department / faculty:	WASSER, UMWELT, BAU UND SICHERHEIT
Field of study:	WATER ENGINEERING
Home university:	Hochschule Magdeburg-Stendal (MD)
Nationality:	CHILE
Duration of traineeship (<i>from ...to...</i>):	17.03.2022 - 31.08.2022

TRAINEESHIP INSTITUTION

Country:	SPAIN
Name of traineeship institution:	APPLUS NORDCONTROL S.L.U
Web page:	https://www.applus.com/global/es/
Address:	N-VI, Km. 582, 15160 Sada, A Coruña
Contact person:	FERNANDO MATEOS FUENTES
Telephone / E-Mail:	fernando.mateos@applus.com

EXPERIENCE REPORT (*approx. 3 pages + more photos if applicable*)

1) Traineeship institution

Please give a brief description of your host traineeship institution.

Applus is a huge company with several divisions internationally. They work in three main areas and the one I was involved in was sanitation and infrastructure. Particularly, the division I stayed in Spain is one of the largest, so I had the chance to see how much they do. In my department I was constantly seeing projects of waste water plants, hydrological studies, and sanitation infrastructure. They are very active and have a good reputation in the industry.

2) Searching for a traineeship

How did you find your traineeship? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?

They often offer internship opportunities online in their website or with another associated job websites. In my case, a senior student from the master told me about her experience, and then I asked the coordinator of my degree to put me in contact with them formally. After some time, things worked out for an internship placement.

3) Preparation

How did you prepare for your traineeship in terms of language, intercultural, professional and organisational aspects? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?

I refreshed some previous knowledge about what they do like hydraulics, project management and some other numerical elements. Language was not a problem, although the Galician language is quite present in the company culture. I had to plan the route to get there everyday by public transport and some other minor details.

4) Accommodation

How did you find your accommodation? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?

I look for in official renting websites, and asked for something nearby. Asking the coordinator of the university is a good tip. They know well some recommendations.

5) Traineeship

Please describe the tasks and / or the projects carried out during your traineeship. In which way were you mentored and integrated? How were the working conditions? Did you have especially positive or negative experiences?

As far as I can say, things were positive. Of course, interns do not get much attention considering other colleagues and bosses are always quite busy. I got integrated helping and assisting them with some calculations and minor tasks at first. Then, once I was familiar enough with the flow of the department, I got single projects and tasks that required more time and attention. I provided support researching norms, creating files and sometimes drafting the basic structures of some projects. I also had to search on my own, and then verify details with available staff. After a few days of progress, I had meetings with the main supervisor and discuss the status, difficulties and receive some feedback. I had my own desk and laptop I was allowed to take home if needed. I cannot say much negative elements because there were not many.

6) Acquired qualifications

Which qualifications and skills could you acquire or improve during your traineeship?

Use of numerical simulation software, better skills with GIS systems, better understanding of industry and the Spanish regulations. I can approach hydrological studies more efficiently.

7) Country-specific features

Are there any specific traineeship regulations in the target country that affected you as an Erasmus trainee (e.g. France: housing allowance, convention de stage)? If yes, which ones? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?

Not really that I know. I would always recommend to get in contact with the university academics. They know well the industry and have contacts that can bring opportunities.

8) Visa, residence and work permit (only for international students)

Which prearrangements had to be made in terms of visa, residence and work permit? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?

I had a European residency permit, so for me it was not necessary to arrange much. However, it is necessary to get an identification number in Spain, open a social security number and also arrange health insurance beforehand. Immigration department website.

9) Other

Is there anything else you want to let other students know?

Take risk, and do not panic with opportunities like this. There will be always a learning process even though some hard, slow start. Do not be afraid of swimming into uncharted waters.

10) Conclusion

What is the conclusion drawn after your traineeship experience abroad?

Positive experience, close contact to job industry and field of study. I would recommend it and unless you try, you never know what you can find.

Declaration of consent

I hereby agree to the publication of this report on the website of the Leonardo Office Saxony-Anhalt.

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Please send this report by email to angela.wittkamp@ovgu.de!
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