

Quo Vadis

By Esther Schmidt, Translated into English by Frank Ottersberg

The road to abroad

After I finished school I left the Rhineland south to Stuttgart to start studying surveying at the HFT Stuttgart. The first internship regulated through the degree programme I spent at the survey company "Hills" in Stuttgart. During this internship I got a lot of experience in fieldwork, using different survey instruments and the reduction of the measured data.

It needs to be Australia!

Together with a fellow student I wanted to spend the second internship in a foreign country. With the motto "If away, then far" we looked for an internship at the other side of the world, in Australia. With the help of existing contacts of the Uni and the yellow pages we sent a couple of inquiries and applications for an internship to Queensland. We both had success and each of us got a internship place in Brisbane. With a little financial assistance in the form of a scholarship from the DVW we went to Australia for half a year.

Internship with Qasco

I undertook my internship at Qasco, a company for surveying and photogrammetry. It gave me the opportunity to get a lot of new experience in digital photogrammetry and Australian engineering surveying and additionally to improve my English knowledge. Half a year in Australia brought me a lot of new experiences, not just in surveying. We met many new people and found friends from different countries in Brisbane. Some of the contacts exist to this very day.

And then Israel...

After I finished my study I wanted to do something totally different and travelled for three weeks to an archaeological dig site in Israel. After that the job application stress began. Unfortunately this was harder than I thought. Due to this I started a internship with the NODIC GmbH in Prenzlau in the department of digital photogrammetry. After this internship I collected gained a couple of years experience in different engineering companies in the Rhein-Main area, most of the time in line documentation for energy companies.

Abroad experience: a plus in job applications

Through an internet portal one of my current colleagues noticed my profile and informed me about a job in technical support at Trimble Germany. After a successful interview I was accepted over other candidates for the position due to my foreign language skills and work experience abroad. I have been working now in this position for more than two years. Within our team I'm responsible for GPS and Office software solutions. The language skills I gained aboard are helping me everyday, because I deal with international clients and give product demonstrations.

Because of my experience I advise everybody to take the chance and do your internship during study in a foreign country. This experience brings you a lot of job opportunities and also a lot of beautiful and private impressions, you will never forget.