

Six Month Internship at Bosch Singapore 2016

A compulsory module of the M.Sc. in Electrical Engineering at the RWTH Aachen University is a technical internship that should allow the students to gain real world engineering practice. I set my sights on an internship abroad – hoping to gain both practical engineering experience and enjoy new cultures.



Application process

Having previously spent time at the Robert Bosch GmbH in Stuttgart and being part of the students@bosch program, I had help finding an internship abroad through internal channels at Bosch¹. The most exciting one came from the Bosch Corporate Research Department in Singapore. I applied to the position and was invited to a telephonic interview. I was interviewed by two employees from the Power Electronics group and quizzed on both interpersonal skills and power electronics basics. They created a relaxed atmosphere for the interview and went into some detail on what tasks I could expect if I did my internship there.

A week later I received an email that they would like me to join them, subject to me getting the 'Work Holiday Pass'. This is the Visa that is required and it can be applied for online. Two important aspects of this visa are, that the applicant be no older than 25 and study at a reputable university (which the RWTH Aachen University is). I applied for the visa online and received confirmation two weeks later. At this point the HR department of Bosch got involved and started the formalities. I also received a very detailed 'Intern Manual', which included all the information I needed for the internship. What was really great is that it included tips on vaccines for the area, where to find accommodation and some general tips on the different cultures and norms one can expect in Singapore.

The internship

The Robert Bosch (SEA) Pte Ltd is located in Marymount, Singapore, and is the headquarters for Bosch in Southeast Asia. Various divisions share the building in Singapore, including Automotive Aftermarket, Software Innovations, Power Tools, Thermo Technology, Corporate IT, Security Systems and most Corporate Research (CR).

I spent my internship at the CR/RTC4-AP group, which has three main competence areas: Building Technology, Energy Management and Power Electronics. I worked in the team that focuses on Power Electronics. My two main tasks involved the implementation of a design tool for capacitor banks in frequency converters and research on integrating batteries into industrial DC grids. For both tasks I worked a lot with MATLAB and Simulink, but also had the chance to work hands on; disassembling frequency converters and performing experiments. A bit of background into Power Electronics is therefore required for this type of internship.

¹ Bosch Corporate Research in Singapore is always looking for new interns. Feel free to contact me for more details. See end of report for contact details.

The supervision was excellent and the colleagues were all very competent, supportive and friendly. They however also gave us a lot of freedom and responsibility. The team also included up to five interns at the same time, making for a very sociable atmosphere both at work and after work. Most of these also came from Germany, but this is not always the case. We received sufficient remuneration for living expenses, I however had to use my savings to travel around. Bosch is however one of the few companies in Singapore where interns are entitled to vacation (Six days plus overtime).

Singapore

I found Singapore to be an excellent place for the internship for a number of reasons. Firstly, being at the center of Southeast Asia means there are a lot of different cultures all mixed together. This can be seen by the many different ethnicities and food sorts available. Singapore is also a hub for Southeast Asia, meaning many cheap flights are available and I spent many weekends travelling to different countries; including Malaysia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Hong Kong and Indonesia. Weekends spent in Singapore were also great and included trying out 'dragon boating', short hikes through indigenous forests or cycling along the East Coast promenade. The amazing skyline of Singapore at night proved an excellent view for after work drinks. A highlight was of course getting to experience the Singapore Formula 1 event in September.

English is the official language in Singapore which made it another excellent choice for an internship. It is also one of the safest cities in the world and has many European aspects, which we always enjoyed coming home to after a trip to some very rural areas in Indonesia, for example.

Conclusion

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Bosch in Singapore and can truly recommend it for anyone looking for an exciting internship abroad. I gained valuable practical experience and got to interact with clients from totally different cultures. At the same time, I had the chance to travel a lot and learn about new cultures.

If you have any questions or would like the contact details for Bosch in Singapore, please feel free to contact me at: philip.von.platen@rwth-aachen.de

