

STUBE Hessen-Workshop TV824

“How to find an internship – for international students“

22nd May 2024 von 11am – 2pm

Online via Bigblue Button

In cooperation with International Office and Career Centre Plus of Justus-Liebig-University Gießen

Seminar facilitator: Suanny Erazo (STUBE Hessen), Eileen Paßlack-Runkel and Julia Kislat (International Office at JLU Gießen)

Target group: Students from Africa, Asia and Latin America studying at hessian universities

Learning goals: information on how to find an internship in Germany, legal regulations and hearing examples and reports from other international alumni

Participants: The number of registrations totalled 68 and a number of 22 students participated in this English speaking event (6 women, 16 men). Out of 22 participants, 19 participants attended a STUBE event for the first time. All in all, the number of represented countries was 14. Divided by regions, 1 student came from 1 African country, 10 students from 6 Asian countries, 6 students from 4 states in the MENA-region, 3 students from 1 Latin-American country and 2 students from 2 European countries participated in the seminar.

Process of the event:

The event took place as planned.

Wednesday, 22nd May 2024

The seminar started with a welcome speech for the participating students by the facilitator Julia Kislat. The program started at 11am. The facilitator presented all speakers for today and the International Office and Career Centre Plus of JLU Gießen. Afterwards, the facilitator Suanny Erazo introduced herself and presented the various offers of STUBE Hessen to the participants. After a short getting to know where everyone is from and what field of study they have, Ms Kislat introduced the first workshop **‘How to apply – The Job Market and the Application Process in Germany’** presented by Iris Heilgendorf from the Employment Agency Gießen. Firstly, Ms Heilgendorf introduced a chart with data about the greatest demand for academic professions, before she introduced the participants what aspects to consider during a job search, which included: contacts during your study, personal contacts, (job)fairs in your field, congresses, career days etc., further education/courses, acquisition of relevant contacts, social media, websites of companies/institutions, job search engines, meta-search engines, job offers in magazines/newspapers, also professional journals. Ms Heilgendorf explained the importance of knowing why to apply for an internship and what to consider in preparation for it. She listed the various ways of application processes. She recommended to use the “Jobbörse”, where the students will get a list with several offered jobs. By using “extended search” the students can vary their search and the results according to place, kind of job and working time. She recommended to search not by job title but to leave that open because sometimes interesting offers might be missed because the students could not imagine the right title beforehand.

The first report of experience has been held by JLU-alumnus Mr Komla Digoh, who presented his career path. He did his masters in “Democracy and Governance” at Justus-Liebig-University and graduated in 2020. He did an internship at GIZ, which was thematically connected to his Mastersthesis on reform partnerships with Africa. As a service provider in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development and international education work, the GIZ has over 50 years of experience in a wide variety of areas, including economic development and employment promotion, energy and the environment, and peace and security. In his internship he worked on the G20-initiative “Compact with Africa” (CwA) and the “Marshallplan with Africa” (Germany).

Mr Digoh recommended the students to use every opportunity they have to learn different languages during their studies. There are many language-courses free of charge for students. Also it is important to have a student job that already is connected to the preferred career paths. Building your network with professors and lecturers during your studies is also crucial. They mostly have contacts which they can forward the students and are supportive. He recommend to make use out of job databases, like „WILA Arbeitsmarkt“. On this platform he found his current job at BAGSO to which he applied successfully. He works as a project officer in the “specialist departments and public relations” department at BAGSO – Federal Association of Senior Citizens' Organizations in Bonn. Last but not least he reminded the students to stay courageous as he also faced several rejections of internship application.

The second alumna Ms Liliya Nankova presented her experiences in finding an internship in the field of Anglistics. She was educated in the United States and Germany and shared has worked in Bulgaria, the United States, Germany and the UK. During her studies in Germany she worked in multiple jobs to earn money and gain experiences. She encouraged the students in their search for the proper internship. One of the most important questions here is in which area one would like to develop further. To do so, it is important to know your own strengths and weaknesses and to assess them realistically. Based on this, it is helpful to bring in previous experiences and to use your full potential. In doing so, you should not let fears and doubts slow you down. For the search for a suitable internship, she recommended the Internet. This makes it possible to establish contacts quickly and without much difficulty. Ms. Nankova gave the students valuable tips for successful application documents. The CV should contain all important stations, a professional photo and the crucial knowledge. It should not be longer than one page. The cover letter should be very specific to the job vacancy. For the interview, you should arrive on time and well prepared in appropriate clothing.

After a short break Ms. Julia Kislak presented the legal regulations for doing an internship alongside the studies but also for the job entry after graduation. The temporary residence permit entitles the holder to take up a student job. This does not apply in the first of residence during a stay for the purpose of preparatory measures for a course of study, except during holidays. Foreigners are granted a temporary residence permit for up to 18 months, if they successfully completed their studies in the federal territory. She also presented the legal regulations for international students for working in Germany alongside their studies. Many students in Germany have jobs in their spare time. Some of them are research/study assistants (wissenschaftliche Hilfskraft – Hiwi) in universities, research institutes or libraries, for example, whilst others work as waiters or babysitters. The Foreigners Authority must still be informed if the students wish to work as an academic or student assistant.

At the end, Ms Eileen Paßlack-Runkel presented the BPSA-STUBE funding program, which builds a bridge to the countries of the Global South. BPSA funding supports students in preparing for their future careers at an early stage. The program aims at students (B.A./M.A./Staatsexamen), who are planning to do an internship, or need to do some research in order to accomplish your bachelor or master thesis in their countries of origin. [STUBE Hessen](#) can help the students to realize this undertaking through its bPSA (berufsvorbereitende Praktika und Studienaufenthalte) programme – for internships and research stays in their countries of origin. The bPSA programme supports students with covering the travel costs and the health insurance (max. 1000 EUR) for:

- A research stay in order to accomplish a bachelor or master thesis (for a period of min. 1 month up to 3 months)
- An internship (in your future field of profession) (for a period of min. 6 weeks up to 6 months)
- A stay in order to seek information about the national job market, meeting contacts and potential employers (for a period of min. 1 month up to 2 months.)

All speakers gave the opportunity to answer every question the participants have.

Impressions from the evaluation:

- Very informative
- How is the job market in Germany, and which aspects do I have to keep in mind
- Precise, organised and helpful

- About the Experiences, I think, it's very helpful to hear about the experiences from the others. Also, the presentation with Iris was very informative and helped me how can I write my cover letter or my application for a position
- I knew how to find internship and how a good cv looks like
- An introduction and tips regarding German internships, including the little details like the CV layout
- Very short break
- sometimes they talk too fast

28.05.2024

Suanny Erazo

STUBE Hessen-Referentin

Eileen Paßlack-Runkel

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