

Dreaming of an Internship at a German Company?

Application Training – Internship: Linking German Companies with Chinese Young Professionals



German is on the rise, at least in terms of numbers of Chinese university students, who pick this language for their higher studies. In Shanghai alone, there are several Sino-German institutions of higher education offering bilingual Bachelor and Master programs. Often these include a mandatory internship in a German company, but not always do the students find it into and through the application process.

They were Bachelor students in their third semester studying Mechatronics, Automobile Technologies and Building Services Engineering & Management. In these trainings students had several occasions to meet professionals of German companies, who in turn had the chance to get in touch with these young talents.

Simulated interviews with representatives of German companies make up the last part of the Application Training-Internship, which the Deutschkolleg – Zentrum zur Studienvorbereitung of Tongji University in Shanghai offers since last year. The trainings, all held in German, are designed to prepare students for their first experience in a German company. The training includes a thorough introduction into the job application process with the aim of landing an invitation for a job interview. Students learn how to identify suitable companies, write a compelling CV and application letter, prepare for the interview, and – last but not least – experience a simulated interview with a German executive. Intercultural aspects such as the role of hierarchies or the different meanings of meetings in the German and Chinese companies are also dealt with.

The biggest challenge but also the highest motivation for the students of the last Application Training - Internship were the simulated interviews: Challenging because it was the first time for most of the students to sit opposite to a German speaking business representative, and motivating, since they had a chance to actually apply the learnt skills and receive a constructive feedback from the professionals. That way the participants realized that they were on the right track or which areas they still had to improve.

In the autumn term of 2008 180 students of the Sino-German University of Applied Sciences (CDHAW) of Tongji University attended this training.

If your company is interested in getting involved in the Application Training-Internship e.g. by sending an interviewer, please contact:
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