

IAESTE: Internship in Austria

Place: Villach

Company: KAI GmbH – Infineon AG

Duration: 1st March 2022 – 31st October 2022

Preparation

I was a little bit surprised by the staggering amount of documents required to avail of an IAESTE internship, well in my case Master Thesis. However, as I had started quite early with the application process, I finished well before the deadline. When I traveled to Villach or while my stay there, I never really met any IAESTE members to help me out. I doubt that there is any IAESTE branch at FH Villach. Nevertheless, I had an easy-going settlement with the help of the relocation service from my company.



Accommodation

I already booked a dormitory room for myself even before landing in Villach, so unfortunately I missed an opportunity to become a gypsy! The location of my dormitory, 'STUWO' is just amazing. It is just 200m away from my working place and 1km away from a very beautiful lake 'Silbersee'. The living standard in STUWO was great and especially it provided me with the opportunity to meet with people from different parts of the world. The gym at STUWO was another great addition to my taste. I was always finding myself in the gym on weekdays which helped me to be fit, healthy, and stress-free. Unfortunately, at the end of August, I had to move out as my room contract ended there. After that, I found myself an apartment near a hill that had its perks and sparks. While I was staying in this apartment, I used to go running on the trails in the forest where I would see lots of deer roaming around with no fear by the side of the trails.



Work

Working at KAI GmbH was like snowboarding on baby slopes; very relaxing and non-hostile. It is a research institute of Infineon AG where around 80 people are working with lots of students coming and going every year. Being a small company, everyone more or less knew each other and was friendly when it came to helping each other. My daily routine at KAI was: coffee → work → lunch, table-tennis → work → coffee → work which just goes to show how relaxing the environment was.

One of the cool things about my company is, there were a lot of team-building events where we would go hiking, swimming, or site seeing. Another cool thing about my company is, everybody would bring cakes to share the joy if anything good happened to them. Therefore, if you ask me, can a working place be any cooler than this? I would say, most definitely not. Apart from all the fun, I had good growth working in this company professionally and personally. For my work, I have helped my company creating system models of different Infineon Smart Power Switches in MATLAB Simscape environment. Probably, my work was not so bad and they were just too sad to let me go that they have taken me as a full-time employee to have a start from 1st December.



Social Life

As I was living in the dormitory, I was having parties every weekend. We would do lots of game nights,



beer pongs as well as the Shrek marathon. Sometimes, we would go to Silbersee for swimming, beach volley or just to see the sunset after a long day for a relaxing evening. Some of my colleagues from the company were also living in STUWO, so it made it easier for me to have a stronger friendship with them on and off the company. Sometimes, we would go to nearby cities for site seeing. On Friday or Saturday nights, we would go to the city center for pub crawling or karaoke nights. Over the period, I have organized two bigger events for all of us. One was arcade games and bowling night and another one was paintball. Both were very exciting, especially the paintball event as we organized a battle royal-type tournament. All things considered, I met some interesting people during this period and had a great time with them.

Cultural Experience

As a city, Villach is beautiful and surrounded by mountains and lakes. However, it is small, so not much of a happening place as you would expect as a student. However, I was surprised when I came to know that the 2nd biggest festival in the whole of Austria happens in Villach. The festival is called 'Villacher Kirchtag' where people from different parts of Austria and neighboring countries like Italy, Slovenia, Germany, or Hungary would come together to have beers and traditional foods. It is basically like 'Oktoberfest' but an Austrian version. I have lived in Regensburg, Bavaria for a while, so I was quite familiar with the Austrian culture, as Bavarians and Austrians share lots of



cultural aspects. For example, wearing 'Leder Hosen' and 'Dirndl' at festivals such as Villacher Kirchtag gives the fest authenticity and specialty. Socially, compared to Darmstadt or even



Regensburg, Villach is quite conservative! Therefore, it is something to look out for if someone is non-Austrian. Nevertheless, it is a great city to live in if someone wants to have a career in Semiconductor companies like Infineon, Lam Research, SAL, or Intel. In the end, if I have to rate Villach in a sentence as a student, then I may say Villach can be a good retirement plan.