

Three months paid internship in the world's leading chemical company. A life changing experience!

Before telling you what happened during the internship or even how I got the internship in the first place, I would like to tell you a bit about myself. Nothing to brag about though. My name is Hadi, and at the moment I am 25 years old. I was born in Iran, and I did my bachelor in Industrial Engineering in my hometown, Karaj. In 2013, I was granted to study in LUT in the field of Innovation Management. Best thing happened to me, it literally changed my life. Last but not least, I also work in a nonprofit student organization called ESTIEM.

So the company I was talking about above is called BASF, also known as Badische Anilin- & Soda-Fabrik. But more often BASF, it's much easier. You might ask how did I end up there? Well that's a very good question. After finishing my summer school in LUT, I came to Mannheim, Germany to do my semester abroad. Which was an amazing experience. I learned so many things, and made really good friendships. By the end of exchange semester I thought of doing a short internship in Germany. Why not? Germany has the strongest economy in Europe and the work environment is fairly dynamic, so you will learn a lot in a short amount of time. My first choice was SAP, the leading enterprise software company in the world. But unfortunately all my applications got rejected. Therefore I applied for more companies, BASF was one of them. This particular internship, innovation management in BASF 150th anniversary caught my eyes. Everything was awesome about it. The project was super interesting, the salary was ok, and I could work in the world's leading chemical company. Pretty good deal I'd say. So I applied, and I went through the first application round. The next step was to come to BASF for an interview with my future supervisor. I wanted it so bad. When I want something this much, I find a way to make sure I will get it! I asked the HR representative for the name of my interviewer. After receiving it, I searched the name on LinkedIn. I found out that I have a third connection with him. One of my professors in Mannheim knew somebody that knew my supervisor. Then I wrote an email to my professor, told him about the situation and asked him to introduce me to his contact who knows my supervisor. We went a couple of times back and forth until I received the contact I needed. It was a lady, later turned out only saw my supervisor once in a conference. She was very kind. We had a conversation on phone and she said that she could write an email to my future supervisor, and to tell him that I am so insane that I will go through these stuff to get to the internship. Lets move forward, the day of

the interview arrived. And it went great. My supervisor told me that a lady wrote her an email and told him about my passion for this position. It was clear that I got the place. Let the party begin!

Do you want to know about the experience I had here in BASF? One word, incredible. My supervisor, the team, the project, the working environment, the flexibility of worktime, everything was great. I am very pleased with my choice. The context of the project was exactly what I was studying in LUT. A big corporation, experimenting different methods of innovation on a global scale. The one thing that I really loved about this internship was that my ideas actually mattered. It happened a lot of times that my supervisor favored my thoughts over the ideas of others. I was actually seeing my work, being implemented in projects. That was by far my biggest motivator.

Now that the internship ended, I received a new contract to write my master thesis about one of the innovation projects here as well. Things look good, for now!