



STUDENT DETAILS

University department / faculty: **COOP DESIGN RESEARCH**
Field of study: **ARCHITECTURE, RESEARCH**
Home university: **Hochschule Anhalt**
Nationality: **INDIAN**
Duration of traineeship (*from ...to...*): **6 MONTHS**

TRAINEESHIP INSTITUTION

Country: **SLOVENIA**
Name of traineeship institution: **APOLONIJA ŠUŠTERŠIČ**
Web page: **<https://apolonijasustersic.com/>**
Address: **MIKLOŠIČEVA 26, 1000 LJUBLJANA.**
Contact person: **APOLONIJA ŠUŠTERŠIČ**
Telephone / E-Mail: **apolonija.sustersic@gmail.com**

EXPERIENCE REPORT (approx. 3 pages + more photos if applicable)

1) Traineeship institution

Please give a brief description of your host traineeship institution.

Apolonija Šušteršič is an architect and visual artist. Her work is related to a critical analysis of space; usually focused at the processes and relationships between institutions, cultural politics, urban planning and architecture.

2) Searching for a traineeship

How did you find your traineeship? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?

I was following Apolonija's work for sometime and used the funds from ERASMUS as an opportunity to train with her. I reached out to her on email and thankfully she responded positive. I did not use any websites but I assume there are websites to find traineeships, eg: <https://erasmusintern.org/>

3) Preparation

How did you prepare for your traineeship in terms of language, intercultural, professional and organisational aspects? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?

The international office of HS-Anhalt and the Leonardo Office were enough help and guidance I needed.

4) Accommodation

How did you find your accommodation? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?

Accommodation was provided to me by the host institution. There are facebook groups and websites to find shared or single apartments in every big european city now. In case of Slovenia, facebook groups EXPATS IN SLOVENIA and FOREIGNERS LIVING IN LJUBLJANA are helpful.

5) Traineeship

Please describe the tasks and / or the projects carried out during your traineeship. In which way were you mentored and integrated? How were the working conditions? Did you have especially positive or negative experiences?

My tasks included, research and conceptualization of ongoing projects. Drawings, presentations, handling text, photos, videos (subtitles) for the portfolio and website of the artist as well as for exhibitions and publications of projects in Design Biennales and architecture/design magazines. I also visited Sweden with the artist for a research trip for an ongoing commissioned project there. Additional tasks included archiving previous works and managing the studio.

I was working alone, and coordinating with Apolonija over emails and phone calls, though we met for one week every month and worked together. It could be a difficult situation for some but I was aware and looking forward to be self organized.

It was a great opportunity and a brilliant learning experience.

6) Acquired qualifications

Which qualifications and skills could you acquire or improve during your traineeship?

Self motivation, self organization, research and presentation tools, design thinking, methods of participatory action research and community projects, knowledge about funding sources and organizations, software skills, website handling. Also acquired guidance on portfolio/presentational skills, future possibilities and interesting Phd/master courses in Europe.

7) Country-specific features

Are there any specific traineeship regulations in the target country that affected you as an Erasmus trainee (e.g. France: housing allowance, convention de stage)? If yes, which ones? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?

None that I know of.

8) Visa, residence and work permit (only for international students)

Which prearrangements had to be made in terms of visa, residence and work permit? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?

International students/ trainees must register themselves and apply for a residence permit at the Upravna Enota (City hall). The Slovenian embassy websites, facebook groups EXPATS IN SLOVENIA and FOREIGNERS LIVING IN LJUBLJANA have all the necessary information for any newcomers.

9) Other

Is there anything else you want to let other students know?

There is one thing that I feel is not very well resolved in case of internationals. While leaving Germany, I left my apartment but the city and my German residence permit requires me to continue having an address in Germany. In my case, I had requested my ex flatmates and friends to continue having my name on the letterbox and bell but 6 months is a long time, as a result my bank and other organizations could not reach me. Deutsch bank also fined me 20 euro for non availability of address. I believe this non availability of address can be better resolved.

10) Conclusion

What is the conclusion drawn after your traineeship experience abroad?

I am very thankful to, HS-Anhalt, Erasmus and the Leonardo Office for giving me this opportunity even after graduation. It helped me get an experience which would not have been possible otherwise. This internship was an important learning curve and gave me immense insight into the life and works of an internationally renowned artist.

Please send this report by email to julia.schubert@ovgu.de!
Acceptable file formats: [.doc], [.docx], [.rtf], [.odt].

