

Experience Report

[to be published on our web page]

Please insert here at least one **PHOTO** of your traineeship stay abroad! Preferred motives are photos of your accommodation, of your work place, of being at work. Attention! Due to legal considerations we kindly ask you to send us only photos that have been taken by yourself!



STUDENT DETAILS

University department / faculty:	Martin-Luther-Universität / Wirtschaftswissenschaften Fakultät
Field of study:	Business Economics
Home university:	Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg
Nationality:	Mexico
Duration of traineeship (<i>from ...to...</i>):	6 months

TRAINEESHIP INSTITUTION

Country:	France
Name of traineeship institution:	Organisation für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (OECD)
Web page:	https://www.oecd.org/
Address:	2 Rue André Pascal, 75016 Paris, France
Contact person:	Bart Staats
Telephone / E-Mail:	bart.staats@oecd.org

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

1) Traineeship institution

Please give a brief description of your host traineeship institution.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international organisation that works to build better policies for better lives. Their goal is to shape policies that foster prosperity, equality, opportunity and well-being for all. We draw on 60 years of experience and insights to better prepare the world of tomorrow.

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 found the internship offer directly at the official page of the OECD. The link is: <https://www.oecd.org/careers/internship-programme/>. The application portal is only open twice a year, one time during the winter and the other during the summer. Make sure you know the deadlines and allow yourself to prepare your application with time.

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 OECD is an international organisation, so I knew that the internship would be entirely in English. Therefore, I did not have to prepare myself in terms of language, because I am fluent in English since I am a pupil. In terms of professional preparations, I sought to have already some professional and practical experience by doing some student jobs at my university as student assistant and also by doing an internship at the Chamber of Commerce at the IHK Halle-Dessau. Moreover, I prepared myself really well for the test that you need to do, in case the OECD is interested in your profile.

Other organisational aspects, like moving to France where pretty spontaneous, as they told me 2 weeks before I moved to France that I got the internship.

4) Accommodation

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

I tried finding an apartment in the websites that people in Paris use to find an apartment, but it was impossible. The demand is way larger than the supply in Paris. I was very lucky to find an apartment through a friend of my aunt, who happened to be looking for someone to rent an apartment she had in Montmartre. I would advise students to look on Facebook groups, or apply to the Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris which is a student campus in the south of Paris. I had many friends living here, because it is very cheap and quite fun for international students. The only downside is that it is a bit far from the centre.

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 main responsibilities were:

- Support the organisation of the Skills Summit 2022, including by liaising with country delegations, preparing background documents and presentations, and participating in regular meetings with the host, Colombia.
- Conduct background research on skills policies including, but not limited to areas such as adult learning, quality assurance, active labour market policies.
- Gather relevant data, indicators, country practices and case studies to strengthen the evidence base to support OECD Skills Strategy projects.
- Draft chapters and content for country and thematic reports, working papers, technical papers designed for policymakers.
- Contribute to design and deliver workshops, seminars and high-level meetings, including by helping to prepare the presentations and background materials.
- Other tasks as requested.

These tasks were for the three different projects I was part of: The Skills Summit 2022, the OECD Skills Strategy Flanders and OECD Skills Strategy Ireland. I had one supervisor throughout my whole internship, and he was in charge of giving me tasks, as well as being my mentor. Additionally, the other analysts were also always open to help me out whenever I needed something.

The working conditions were great. The offices of the OECD are very nice and I worked in an open space office, which made it easier to reach out to my supervisor in case of coming across some questions. The OECD gave me a laptop and I had two extra screens at the office.

I have an overall very positive experience from my time at the Centre for Skills in the OECD. I have had a wonderful experience working with everyone at the centre during the past six months and have gained tremendous personal and professional growth. The team at the Centre for Skills was great, but I also had the opportunity to meet a lot of international interns from other directorates thanks to the fact that the OECD organises every week an intern afterwork event.

6) Acquired qualifications

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

The internship helped me be better at working under time pressure, develop more critical thinking, improve my drafting and research skills, as well as learn how to be more self-sufficient and have more initiative. I also improved my MS package skills, mainly in Word and Excel.

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?

Not that I know of. Just the fact that finding housing in Paris is extremely difficult, but this is not everywhere in France.

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?

As a EU citizen or resident, there was nothing else to do. In my case, I am an international student with a residence permit in Germany and this was sufficient. Make sure that your residence permit is valid throughout your whole stay.

9) Other

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

I would highly recommend to do an internship abroad. This experience will take you out of your comfort zone and you will learn and grow so much. I firstly though it wouldn't be possible for me to do my dream internship at the OECD, because of how hard it is to get the internship, but also because of how expensive it is to live in Paris, but in the end I made it happen. Of course, this wouldn't have been possible without the financial support that the Erasmus Praktika programme gives to students who do an internship abroad. Don't let this chance pass!

10) Conclusion

What is the conclusion drawn after your traineeship experience abroad?

In retrospect, I cannot imagine a better place than the OECD to start my professional life, not only for the work that the Centre for Skills does but for the people behind the scene I had the opportunity to meet along the way. People working for the people. I am looking forward to come back one day and keep on sharing my passion for education and skills.

Declaration of consent

I hereby agree to the publication of this report on the website of the Leonardo Office Saxony-Anhalt.

I assure that the photos used in this report do not violate the rights of other persons or companies (personal rights, copyrights etc.).

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