

Experience report

First and last name:

Chintan Joshi

Study program:

Sustainable Technology

Management: Industry 4.0

Bachelor or Master:

Master

Host institution, country:

Alpha Blowers (Division of

Somaiya Techno

Products), India

Period: 4.5 Months

Declaration of consent to the publication of the report

- I agree that the present report will be linked on the website of the ERASMUS office, so that future prospective customers can get first-hand information about my experiences at the university location abroad.
- I agree that my e-mail address will be available to prospective students who would like to get first-hand information about my experience at the university abroad, upon request to the Erasmus office.
- I agree that my **full name** / ~~only my first name~~ can be found in the published report.

Formalities: India mandates having a prior VISA before arrival- unless your country has an on-arrival agreement with the Indian government. If you are a citizen, no special documents are required other than a passport. As the COVID regulations still applied, had to carry additional health documents during the travel.

I applied for the position of 'Research Intern with the host organization via email. After a virtual interview with the CEO, I was shortlisted for the position and the expectations were clearly set. The job description and expectations were documented and shared, and an internship acceptance letter was provided which was submitted at SRH. Further plans of action and orientation details were shared later.

Motivation and preparation for mobility:

This project-based internship was a perfect opportunity to apply the knowledge and methods that I had learned during my course with Prof. Dr. Omar Ferganni and Prof. Dr. Michael Hartmann in the course Material Sciences and Additive Manufacturing Technologies. This was an opportunity to practically apply the teachings learned at SRH Berlin. I was highly motivated

to help a company complete their internal goals. It is an MSME which manufactured its pumps using traditional casting methods. They were interested in exploring the possibility to implement 3D manufacturing of their pumps. And my course allowed me to do that. I was asked to complete a thorough evaluation based on technical feasibility, and financial implications and to identify the necessary Change management required if the management decided to pursue it further.

Start of mobility: After completing all the formalities, I started off with an online orientation to help me introduce myself to the organization, then the product, then the current ongoing practices, the manufacturing cycles, the departments and then the possible areas of improvement. We also went through the expectations and desired outcomes from this collaboration during this orientation. After 3 days of orientation, I resumed my journey at the manufacturing unit.

During the mobility: It was an interesting experience during my time at the mobility. Everyone was welcoming and already considered all new people a part of the existing group. Even when there was a hierarchy, the most interesting aspect was that every single staff member sat together for lunch during the lunch break. And all food was always shared among everyone. Every day used to be a potluck basically. This was something very refreshing to see after my time spent in Germany. Another interesting aspect was that the boundary expected in the personal questions was not followed. People used to ask all kinds of personal questions including age, family, and prior life experience. It wasn't due to the lack of boundaries, but it was a cultural norm to be involved in each other's moments of happiness and especially the difficult times. One would never feel alone in such a culture. While it was interesting to learn and apply the theoretical knowledge in practice, I realized over time that the shop floor workers knew a lot more about the fundamentals than I ever learned through my academics and it was all the outcome of the hands-on approach. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to directly interact with the shop floor workers to observe them and that I didn't waste that opportunity by sitting behind only a desk.

What have I learned and what am I taking with me from this time? :

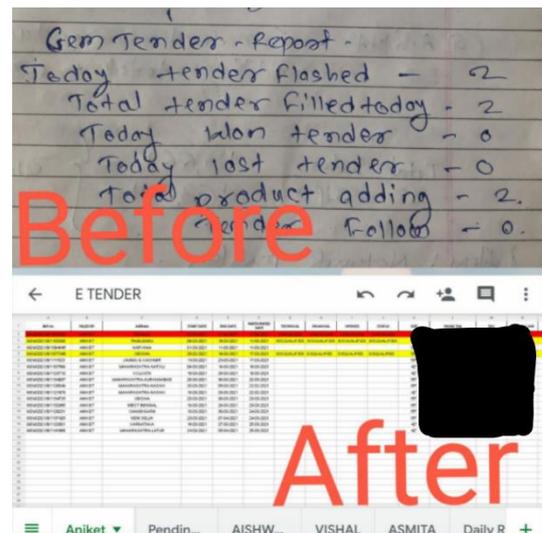
1. Even when things are working well, it is always important to be on the lookout for new technology and have an open mind. Because it's not just about you, you are also responsible for the families employed under you. It only takes a couple of wrong critical decisions from becoming the next Nokia.
2. Always prioritize your existing workforce during accepting new practices, and technologies. Always think from their perspective and upskill them wherever necessary. Always have a plan for them and give them a choice and time to develop themselves.
3. There is always room to improve the existing system on efficiency in terms of process time, man-hours, cost or financial overheads.
4. Having practical hands-on experience will always teach you one additional thing more than having an academic understanding of the topics.
5. People are always willing to share their knowledge as long as you are sincere in your request to learn. Always be polite, it will open unexpected doors and opportunities.

Green ERASMUS – How is the topic of the environment treated at the host institution & in the host country?

1. The organization almost always opts for a green mode of transportation viz. public trains to reduce the impact on the environment during an on-site visit at the client.
2. The fuel used for company vehicles is CNG- a greener source of fuel. Even when the capital cost of ownership of CNG vehicles is higher, the organization opted for it.
3. Also, it employs the community initiative project titled “DSI- Daily Small Improvements”. This initiative was trickled through top management and involved every single person in the organization. The objective was to do daily small improvements in anything to reduce waste. It could be cleaning an unused room, or organizing a messy rack, or reducing the font size to save paper- there was no limit on the imagination. The initiative was undertaken to inculcate the habit of reducing waste at the grass-root level.

Impressions (photos, links etc....) :

1. Example of DSI- Daily Small Improvement:
Switching from manual entry
To digitised entry for better
Tracking, editing and clarity.
2. Community Birthday Celebration



3. Eating Lunch Together



4. Additional DSI Example



5. Sports Day

