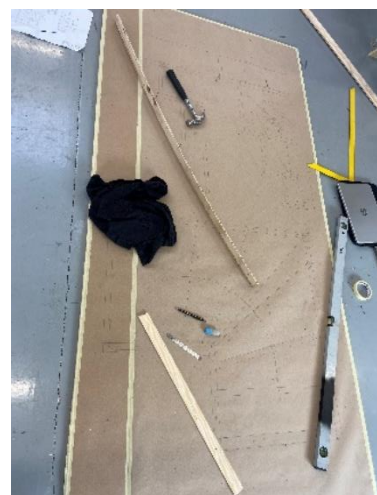
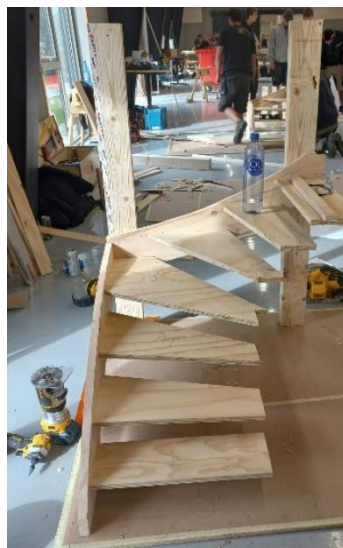


Sprach- und Arbeitsaufenthalt in Aalborg/Dänemark Als im Schreinerin 3. Lehrjahr

The agency Movetia and MobiLingua gave 13 students the opportunity to do an internship abroad. The internship took place in Aalborg, Denmark and lasted two weeks. We lived in the student residence home right next to our school, which all belonged to the Techcollege.

Everyday life at Techcollege

In the first week we got introduced to our teachers and we all got to know each other a bit. Afterwards our schedule was shown on screen. We were quite surprised about the working times. School starts at 08:15 every day and ends either at 2 or 3 pm. Then we talked a lot about the differences from an apprenticeship in Switzerland and one in Denmark. It was very interesting to see, how things work there, because I couldn't imagine going to school for six weeks at a time and then back to work for a couple of months. We also got a tour through the whole school. There are quite a few jobs like painter, plumber, electrician, metalworker, bricklayer and of course carpenter. Next we went to the work halls. We saw some sort of tiny houses which the carpenters built. Also we got the opportunity to talk to those students. We had some questions written down and got paired up with a Danish student. Then we talked for at least half an hour. It was a very good conversation, and I learned a lot about the Danish apprentice system and what kind of work is common for carpenters. Back at school we sketched a house with AutoCAD. This house was just a model, but we built it the day after. It was a basic construction with a rafter roof and shingles. We had to saw the wood by hand, which was exhausting but still a good experience. On Thursday we finished our little house so on Friday we left the work hall and went downtown with our teachers. First we visited a construction site, which was about to be finished. We got a tour from two local carpenters. After that we took the bus to the Utzon Center. It has a variety of different architectural objects and models. It was also very interesting to see how houses are built in Denmark with the isolation and different materials. I noticed that the Danes are further in finding and using sustainable materials and ways in building than we are.



The second week we got split up in three groups and had school with a Danish class. In my class we did stairs. We had to sketch their CAD drawing on paper to create a template. I got into a group with two Danish apprentices. They were very helpful and kind. They always explained our next step and even though I've never done something like that before, I was able to help them too. And in the end with teamwork, we did it. We also had one day in the classroom with them. It was less interesting for us because the teacher just talked in Danish all day long. Then our Danish classmates did a presentation about work safety in Danish. Because we understood nothing, the teacher said we can do our presentation in Swiss German. On Friday, which was our last workday, we all ate breakfast together with the teacher and our Danish classmates.

Our teacher Søren was so kind and gave us a diploma for the stairs we produced!

Free time and weekends

Because school ended so early in the afternoon, we were able to go downtown and experience Aalborg. The Techcollege got us a "Rejsekort" for the public transport. So we took the bus downtown, which left about 5 minutes from our school home. We visited little cafes and local shops. We also went shopping and just walking through the city. There were a lot of colorful houses and streets. Also I really loved the street art and the murals. We found some nice restaurants and ate well. "Jomfru Ane Gade" is a well-known street to go out to party. At the weekends we also went there for some drinks. Furthermore we went to Aarhus by train. It was about 1h20min away. It's famous for its green areas and the "Aros" which is an art museum with a rainbow circle made out of glass on top. When we were tired and didn't have the energy to go downtown, we stayed at the College. There were plenty of possibilities to have fun or to just chill. The school home had a basement with pool tables, air hockey and ping-pong tables. There was also a cinema, a gaming room and a gym.



Bottom line

If anyone gets this opportunity and wants to improve their English and broaden their horizon, I really recommend it. You will not only improve your English, you'll get to know a new culture and make new friends. It's a really great thing to do if you're open minded. The only inconvenient thing was, there were barely any hot vegetarian meals.

But to sum it all up, I am very grateful for this experience and would do it right again.

Thanks to all teachers, Movetia and MobilLingua for enabling this unique experience.