

Brad goes abroad

On April 15th 2016, the 19-year-old Bradley Hagen from Kansas City USA, who works at Münstermann in Westbevern for six months, visited our English class for an interview about his work and going abroad in general.

Brad is an intern at Münstermann in Westbevern. He arrived in Germany three months ago and stays until July to do his engineering work here. His tasks are calling people from different companies and sending them emails with information.

He lives in a very nice host family together with a couple and their three kids. They already invited him on a holiday trip to Mallorca, which made him very happy.

First of all Brad mentioned that he does not speak German very well, although he learned it in high school. "Learning a language is a talent", he said. "One important thing while being in a new country is to not be afraid of making mistakes."

Brad likes to travel and in the last three months here in Germany he already visited Hamburg, Berlin, Munich and Amsterdam.

One question we had was what the main differences between Germany and the US are. Germany seems to be very environmentally friendly, Brad mentioned, because for example some people drink their water from glass bottles and after that they bring them to the "Getränkemarkt".

Also many Germans eat bread with every single meal, which is totally different in America.

Another point is that Americans are allowed to drink alcohol only with 21, but in Germany you can already drink with 18. But nevertheless the German beer, which he can drink legally, tastes much better than the American beer he drank illegally all the time.

Another difference is the weather. Here in Germany it is very grey, cloudy and the sun never comes out while America is very sunny.

A last difference is the school system, which can't be compared to the American one.

Although Bradley didn't like Germany very much at the beginning, he loves our country and our culture now and he said that he could imagine to come back in a few years.

It was very interesting to have such a nice guest from America in our class and to hear so many things about going abroad and the differences between the countries and cultures.

Nelli Giesbrecht

On Friday 15th April the 19 year old student Brad Hagen visited the english class of Mr. Rossien. Brad works at the moment for 'Münstermann' in Westbevern but in six months he goes back to his normal life in Kansas City in the USA. Brad answered all kind of questions from the german students for example about his live in Germany, the main differences between the USA and Germany, his work or many other topics.

One of the first things he noticed about Germany is that the toilets in every bathroom have two flushes, what is really weird for a non german person, because in the USA for example you have only one flush. Also he noticed that Germans eat really heavy and a lot of bread, but it's really good bread so he doesn't mind. By the time he gets know to Germans he realized that german stereotypes don't match many people in Germany.

He was afraid to leave his friends in Kansas City because they normal life go on and his life change for the time in Germany quite a lot. But Brad also explained that he don't think leaving his new friends in Germany would be that difficult because of his 'magical' smart phone which allow him to stay in contact with everyone.

Finally he said that he likes Germany a lot and he could imagine to live in Germany or at least to study in Aachen next spring.

Good luck for your remaining time in Germany!

Lena Hanewinkel

The interview: Bradley Hagen from Cansas City / Münstermann

On April 15th 2016 we conducted an interview with the 19-year-old ingeneering studying Bradley Hagen from Cansas City, USA who is doing a six-month internship at Münstermann in Westbevern. And we asked him about his work there and his stay in Germany.

Brad, as everybody call him, is a very smart, ingeneering interested young man discovering the world of work in the for good ingeneers known country Germany.

Since highschool he learned german because he knew one day he would go to Germany to fullfill his dream.

In the six months Brad is responsible for getting in contact with companies from the USA[..The companies like it when there is a native speaker on the telephone..], Bradley said.

But he is not only working, in the past three months he already visited Hamburg, Berlin, Munich and Amsterdam by train and he loves the cities and the german „Autobahn“ but has [..already got „geblitzt“..]. Right now he is living at a hostfamily with some very nice and friendly children and hostparents who already took him to Mallorca while the springbreak.

He told us about the differences between the United States and Germany.

We Germans would nearly eat bread with every single meal and seem to be very environmentally friendly. Only in Germany he is allowed to drink alcohol but we definitely serve the better beer he said.

Although Bradley Hagen experienced the worse sides of German weather, he would love to come back in a few years after graduating his engineering study at the university in his American hometown.

Ben Overhaus

Have you already thought about your future career? Maybe you would like to do a voluntary year or do work and travel. Our English class had the possibility to receive some information about traineeships first-hand by conducting an interview with an intern from America.

His name is Brad Hagen and he is from Kansas, Texas. When on a workshop there, the 18-year-old met the people of the company Münstermann, where he is doing his traineeship at the moment, for the first time. Because the student of chemical engineering had learned some German so far, he considered this a possibility to expand his knowledge of the world and therefore applied for the traineeship. Furthermore he found it a good idea to go to Germany because this would benefit his plans to work in the engineering business.

It is difficult to live in a foreign country – there are many cultural differences and you probably do not know anyone there. That is why you should make new friends as fast as possible. They help you to get integrated and to get to know the country. Brad told us that it really helped to start working as soon as possible because in doing this, he had no other chance than to communicate. Also he got rid of some stereotypes about Germans and Germany but found so far unknown differences, too. For example he could not have imagined it to be so environmentally friendly in comparison to the USA and was surprised finding two panels to flush the toilet instead of just one.

In the end, he recommended us to definitely go abroad, if it is traineeship or something else. It can only benefit you, your skills and experiences. So just inform yourself and think about what you want to do after your graduation!

Jonas Martins

Interview with a Praktikant from Kansas who works by Münstermann

We did an interview in our English lesson on Friday 15th of April with Bradley Hagen from Kansas in America, a 19 years old Praktikant by Münstermann in Westbevern.

He stayed here in Telgte for six months and lived in a host family. He works as a U.S. market Analyst.

Not speaking the language very well gives him problems by making friends at the beginning. But soon he found people with the same favorite activities so that they become friends. He emphasizes that the German people are very nice in speaking with him. The German language was difficult for him to understand but he was never afraid of making mistakes. At Münstermann there are also some more workers from other countries, for example Russia or China.

His first impression in Germany was that the people are much more environmentally friendly than they are in America he said and laughed a bit.

We asked him why he chose Germany and he said it is the most impressive country for engineering because this was his interest and the direction he wanted to go. The food in Germany is differently better as it is in America he said. In his opinion the bread he found particularly fantastic.

One of the main differences between Germany and America are the school system, the clothes, the weather (in Germany it's much more cloudy and rainy) and - as I said before - the setting to environmental.

While he stayed here in Germany he doesn't feel homesick. But on the contrary he liked experiencing the culture and the country.

Pauline Stübe

Last Friday, 15th of April, Brad Hagen visited our English class. Brad Hagen is 19-years-old and from Kansas City. He is absolving a six month application at Münstermann in Westbevern as US Market Analyst. We interviewed him about his experiences in Germany and the differences to America.

The main difference was also the first thing he noticed. Germany is very environmentally friendly. In the US they are very wasteful, but in Germany they bring "empty bottles to the Getränkemarkt to re-use them". Some other differences are the school system, the gloomy weather and (what was crazy for him) that when you have birthday you must bake a cake and not your friends.

Brad enjoys living in Germany and can imagine to stay here. He has already planned to study in Aachen. The things he really like here are the tastier beer and bread, that he can drink the beer (in America he must wait 2 years) and the non speed limit autobahn (the thing he likes most).

Furthermore he has a very nice host family (he travelled with them to Mallorca) with three young children, which "was perfect for me". He could compare his German to the German of the children. When he arrived, he was at the level of the 2 years-old child, now he is at the level of the 6 years-old child.

The reason why he went to Münstermann was a fortuity. Because Germany is famous for his engineering industry, he choose German courses in 7th grade and concluded it, which is very hard to learn, he told. Only 4 students out of 400 managed to finish it he told proudly. And in the high school he shell talk to a German people and the German offered him to work at Münstermann and Brad answered yes. There he works with trainees from Russian, Chinese and Norway, who do the same.

Brad found here new friends and was already travelling with them to Amsterdam or other cities in Europe. He is in contact with his friends in Kansas, too, however he think they do not really care about the life in Germany.

Johannes Möller

American intern Brad Hagen

On Friday 15th of April an intern of Münstermann from America came to us to the lesson. In this lesson we could ask Brad Hagen some questions where he lives and what he do at Münstermann.

Brad Hagen is 19 years old and comes from Kansas City in the US. The students from Mr. Rossien´s EF could ask to him many questions which he could answer directly.

In the 7th grade Brad decided what he wants to do in the future. Thereupon he learned German as second foreign language in the high school. After the school he comes later to Münstermann

Brad Hagen lives together with a worker from Münstermann in his family.

The first impression from Germany and the environment was friendly and good. His work at Münstermann is to call other companies from America, because he can speak English and German very good ;). Also he travels in Europe like the last week in Amsterdam.

Some things in Germany are different than in America, for example that the toilets have 2 buttons. Moreover he loves to meet friends at the weekend and to drink some tasty German beer. One times the week he Skype with his family and friends to know what happens in Kansas City.

Maximilian Decker

American intern visited English class

Last Friday, on 15th April, Brad Hagen, a 19 years old American intern from Kansas City, visited the EF English class of Mr. Rossien and answered the questions of the students, which they have prepared. He works for 6th months in the company "Münstermann" in Westbevern.

The students asked him very different questions and he answered all.

He says that the main difference between Germany and the US are the food, the environmental and the beer. He said also it is very weird for him that we in Germany can drinking legally beer with only sixteen years old and that when we have birthday in Germany you must baking cake for the others and in Kansas you get some cake from the others.

Another point he talked about is that all stereotypes of German people aren't right. He likes Germany and will come back to study in Aachen.

Rike Ebert

How many times have you asked yourself what if.....I went abroad,what if I met a couple of new and unknown people,what if crossed my own borders and immersed in completely new world?So if you didn't do that here is an example,whose name is Bradley Hagen. Sounds little bit german or?But Brad is nineteen year old boy from Kansas City-USA,who came as a "Praktikant" by "Münsterman" in Westbevan.

He started his new journey three months ago.But he didn't come here as an exchange student or just for fun.His six months in Germany are part of his two left semesters at his university in USA.He choose Germany,because of the language,which he learned at his high school and than at university.But as you know "Deutsche Sprache,schwere Sprache" it wasn't so easy to learn it.At the beginning

there were 400 students ,who learned german language,but four years later ,only 4 were left and Brad was one of them.

But as every new beginning it was hard for Brad to understand the german people and he realized that he knew german as well as a four year old german kid.But he found his host family,which helped him and some new friends too.

But he didn't stop even the language difficulties,he just immersed himself in the culture and tried to assume all the new experiences here.Only his first month was terrible because of the weather.In spite of that he defines Germany as a environmental friendly country,with much healthier food and lifestyle as the USA.

"The beer is also better as the beer at home."said he and smiled.

But instead of his work at "Münsterman" he travels around Germany and take some moments with himself from different cities as Berlin,Frankfurt,Munch,Hamburg and others.After his 6 months here he would like to comeback next spring and to learn again in Germany.At his work at "Münsterman" he learns not only the language also how to communicate with people and how to improve his body language.

He is here because he wanted to make something different and new.Most of the teenagers in USA don't try to go abroad and to find a new world.He recommends all the young people,to make one step closer and to immerse in other unknown culture.It is one unforgettable experience which is for a lifelong.

P.S Brad will have birthday next month but something new will happen to him.He should bring a cake for his own B-Day,which is untypical for the people in USA.Because all of them get a cake from their friends.Germany keeps surprising him.

Gergana Gergieva

On Friday 15th April the students of Mr. Rossien's EF English course got the chance to interview Brad Hagan, a 19 years old student from Kansas City. Brad is doing an internship by "Münstermann" as an US Market Analyst.

One of the first questions was why he chose to go to Germany and learn this difficult language. He explained he wants to work as an engineer and Germany is famous for its engineers. He learned German since the 7th grade. In the beginning there were 400 pupils learning German, but only 4 continued to the 12th grade.

He told also about the smaller and bigger difference between Germany and the US. From the two buttons on the toilet, to the lower legal drinking age, to the more

environmental-friendly behaviour. He told us he had to go to a supermarket to re-use his empty bottles at one of his first days in Germany, something he did not know from Kansas City. They also do not separate their waste. He mentioned also, the health awareness is much better in Germany.

He admitted, he started a list with important things he has learned, but then there were way too much things and he gave up writing down everything.

Although he is a half year abroad he does not feel homesick because of the lovely host family, moreover he skypes once a week with his friends to hold contact.

Nils Schneider

Last friday Bradly Hagen a 19 year old from Kansas visited our english class.

The student from the US is doing an intership at the company "Münstermann" in Westbevern.

He answered our question about going abroad and told us about his experience.

„There were two things i noticed directly“ answered Brad to the question “What was your first impression of Germany?“ “The environment and the bread“ he laughed and explained us that Germany is very enviromental friendly than America. Also the germans eat a lot of bread.

He also advises to be yourself when you go abroad. “It is important for finding friends in a different country“ Brad explained. Furthermore you should share the same interests. For example playing football or beeing interested in engineering in his case.

The question “Is it hard for you to leave your friends and familiy at home?“ was answered very fast. Beeing alone in a different country is not very easy. But due to the new experiences he made and his job there is and was no place for homsick.

Brad thanked his hostfamily for the support he get and boasted about spending a week in Mallorca with them. “A typical german holiday, right?“ he jeered.

Asking the question “What is your favourite thing about Germany?“ became very funny. He said that he likes the cheap and good beer and the friendly people. He explained us that the stereotypes he heard about in his hometown are not right and that he has not met a unfriendly person yet.

After all this questions we turn up to the topic why going abroad.

Brad explained that he loves speaking german. He also wanted to become an engineer and he knew that Germany is a perfect country for working as an engineer.

So he met a German engineer in his hometown. He advised Brad to inform himself about the company Münstermann. One year later Brad was sitting in the plane to Germany.

Now he tries to make contacts between "Münstermann" and American companies. "It makes a good impression having a native speaker working for them" he explained.

But it is not only working in Germany. "I learned so much in one month. I made so many awesome experiences. And I am happy spending six months in Germany."

Finally he advised us to take the chance of going abroad. In his opinion it is an unforgettable experience and a good opportunity to save your future.

Merle Litzke

Last Friday, the 19-year-old Brad Hagen from Kansas City visited the EF English class of Mr. Rossien. He is doing a gap year in Germany. At the moment he is exercising an internship at "Münstermann" in Westbevern, but he is going to study mechanical engineering in Aachen.

In an interview Brad answered many questions about his experiences, differences between Germany and the US, "Münstermann" and other interesting topics.

He told the students, that it was difficult to learn German, but he was not afraid of making mistakes and even if he has no homesickness, nevertheless he has contact with his friends in America.

Brad also explained, that he was the only pupil in Kansas who learned German at the university. Then he got the internship because his teacher introduced him to talk with some German persons and they asked whether he would like to make an internship. At "Münstermann" he works together with people from China, Norway and Russia.

At the end, he made clear, that the beginning was difficult but now it is maybe possible for him to stay in Germany later.

Sophie Becks

Brad Hagen is a 19-year-old trainee from Kansas City who came to Germany to work at the company "Münstermann" in the engineering department. There he started with writing announcements of the competitor's customers. Besides he worked with one Chinese, one Norway and three Russian workers. As he loves the internship and the German culture, he wants to study in Aachen next spring.

The first and main change for him with going abroad is the fact that he does not speak German very well. Thus it is hard to find new friends in the beginning, but trying to find new friend helps him on the other hand to improve his German skills. Furthermore his first impression of Germany was that Germany is quite environmental friendly, that the German are eating heavy (but good) bread, the cloudy and cold weather and of course the good beer.

In addition he learned (besides his German skills) how to communicate with others and how to present yourself by the usage of your body language.

All in all this internship is his favourite and helped him reaching his aim of expending his knowledge about the USA.

Catherina Thimm

American intern talks toilets and beer

On Friday, 15th of April, the American intern Brad(ly) Hagen visited English class of Mr. Rossien and his students. The 19-year-old from Kansas City is doing an internship at "Münstermann" as a U.S. Market Analyst.

The students had many questions like "What was your first impression of Germany?".

Brad answered that there were two main things he noticed about Germany. First of all, our country would be more environmentally friendly than America. For example, we separate our waste which Americans do not. Secondly, - and way more important – the toilets here have two buttons. J

He also told the class he did not feel homesick due to the loving host family he lives with in Ostbevern. Nevertheless he skypes with his friends in America once a week.

When he was asked what he had learned on his journey so far, he admitted he had started a list of "important things" he learned but gave up after a while because there were too many. Besides expanding his knowledge of the German language he already gained new friends and priceless experiences.

Finally, he made clear that this internship was the best out of three he had made so far – and not just because of the good beer here in Germany!

Julia Reiser

Last week, an 19 year old student from the US who works at Münstermann in Westbevern, visited our english class to answer all of our questions about his months so far here in Germany.

He introduced himself as Brad Hagen from Kansas City and directly answered all of our questions.

'My first impression of Germany was, that it's so environmental!' he tells us laughing. From home, he isn't used to bring his empty bottles to the Getränkemarkt to re-use them. 'Germany has this huge recycling program. You even have toilets with two different flushes.' he recognizes giggling.

But he also mentions, our health awareness was so much better here in Germany.

Soon the question appears, why he chose Germany for his 6 month internship and he tells us, since 7th grade, he knew he wanted to do engineering for a living. 'Germany is famous for its huge engineering industry. So I signed up for German classes and graduated.' he tells us proudly.

He also reported, he came by a fluke to Münstermann. His teacher at his High School introduced Brad to some German people to talk to them in German, in order to practice his skills. 'At the end, they offered me an internship in Germany' and he obviously said yes!

'First, it was so hard to learn German, because it's so complex!' he confesses. 'But it only took a few days to meet new people and that's a great way to immerse into a new culture and learn a new language.' he mentions. 'You just don't have to be afraid.' he advises us.

At Münstermann he also works with people from different countries, who are in the same situation like him.

One of Brad's main tasks there, is marketing. He has to take care of Münstermann's American clients. 'The clients love to hear a native speaker counselling them on the telephone. It makes the concern more trustworthy to have its own section for their foreign clients.' he tells us.

But he also learns computer-aided design which improves his engineering skills. Of course, one of the main reasons he is doing this 6 month abroad. But not only.

'I wanted to expand my knowledge of the world. In the US, it is unusual to do a gap year or so. But I've learned so much throughout the few months I am here. I went to so many cities in Europe and Germany and nearly everywhere, the people were so open and nice to me as a foreigner'

All in all, he really likes Germany so far. 'I want to come back and study in Aachen.' he tells us proudly.

Well, we wish you good luck for your future and a good time in Germany!

Alina Röhl

Interview with a student from Kansas

On Friday 15th April Mr. Rossien's EF class interviewed Brad Hagen from Kansas City. He is currently working for the company Münstermann in Westbevern together with three Russian, one Chinese and one Norwegian trainees. Brad is 19 years old and he does a gap year. Next spring Brad is going to study mechanical engineering in Aachen.

In the 7th grade Brad knew that he wanted to become an engineer. As Germany is one of the main countries which care about environmental problems, Brad decided to learn German as a second language in order to work in Germany later. In Kansas 400 pupils had chosen German as a second language, but in the 12th grade there were only 4 students who continued. Brad was the only one who learnt German at the University. He got in contact with stereotypes like "The Germans don't smile or don't touch things they don't know".

When Brad came to Germany, the weather was cloudy and rainy the whole month. That was a little bit depressing, because the climate in Kansas is temperate but warm.

At the weekend Brad likes to meet people and he loves travelling to other cities like Amsterdam. Besides he enjoys skyping and talking with his friends in Kansas. The student from America has to accustom at different things like the German toilets and the showers, which don't work like in his own country. But he prefers the German bread and the beer, which he enjoys a lot. There are also a lot of differences concerning the school systems which seems to be more complicated in the US. He has written a list of all things, that are different in Germany compared to the US, but he gave up, because it was too long.

Nicolas Stange