

Min's internship at BMW



Min Liu

In the fourth year of the International Business programme, you will undertake an internship at an international company. Min Liu just finished hers at BMW Treasury Centre Europe and she's been very inspired by the experience. Min: "I learned so much from my colleagues there. It was like having professors at the workplace."

Having specialized in finance, Min had quite a few options to choose from. "I was really keen on an internship at an international company in Europe. I was already looking at positions at Unilever and NN Investment Partners when my lecturer introduced me to the international treasury centre of BMW. I'm very glad I got this opportunity: during my internship, I communicated with international banks every day, met fantastic people and learned some great time management skills. The latter proved to be of great use. Partly due to this, my internship felt much less stressful than my years at university!"

Diversity

During the IB programme, Min gained a greater awareness of cultural differences and intercultural communication. That really prepped her for the internship. "It is indeed very different working with colleagues in North America than it is working with colleagues in Asia. They handle things in completely other ways and in school I learned to be open to this. What was completely new to me, was working with people of various ages. That gave my experience a whole new dimension. In a way, an age difference is also a difference in backgrounds. Because of what I learned in school about having an open mindset, it was much easier to relate to older colleagues at BMW. That helped to make those contacts more meaningful."

All about studying

Especially at BMW, Min felt the importance of having an open mindset. "At BMW it's all about staying eager and wanting to learn constantly. In this environment, it's easy to find subjects to dig into more deeply. So right now, during my final semester at THUAS, I'm researching a problem for my department. But of course, I'm not done after that. I realised that life is all about studying and embracing new knowledge every day. Not just in university, but everywhere you go."

Lots of fun

University did give her one hell of a kickstart though, she smiles: "I'm not going to lie: IB is a very hard programme. Especially when you take a minor in finance like I did, maintaining a social life is a challenge, to say the least. But I feel the programme helped me 'grow up', that's how it's designed. Every year you get more and more responsibilities and the groups you work in get smaller and smaller. That way you learn how to survive in the real world, starting with the internship. And to be honest, I felt quite relieved: for me business life is more relaxing than university. Friends who did other programmes complain about business life being so hard. For me it really just feels like lots of fun!"