

Monika

Medicine, after VI year, traineeship 2022



Dietrich-Bonhoeffer-Klinikum Neubrandenburg, Germany.

In which institution did the internship/traineeship take place?

Dietrich-Bonhoeffer-Klinikum in Neubrandenburg (Germany).



Did the internship take place as part of the obligatory internship during studies, additionally in order to gain experience, or was it a graduate internship in which part of the obligatory post-study internship was carried out?

I left as part of a postgraduate traineeship.

If this was part of a compulsory internship, what was the procedure for recognition by the Ministry?

I am unable to answer this question - my programme trip lasted 2 months and I have not yet completed my compulsory internship.



The language level that you need to have to cope with everyday tasks, contact with the patient, etc.?

In my opinion, a B2 is easily enough, and someone between B1/B2 could probably manage without any problems, assuming they have a sufficient vocabulary.

The most important thing is to speak first of all.

The Germans are very understanding and even if your grammar is lagging to some extent, for them the most important thing is to be able to communicate with you. I, for example, asked the staff to correct me when I made mistakes or just to speak a little slower.

They also gave me vocabulary when I lacked it, so it got better and better as the weeks went by. In this part of Germany you mainly hear Hochdeutsch, dialects much less frequently, so that's another good thing for someone who doesn't feel confident with the language.



General impressions about the Host Institution, the organization of internships, what was the issue of food, did the facility have a canteen?

Rather good, the staff are friendly and helpful, although unfortunately there is a bit of chaos in terms of organisation. The hospital provides accommodation (a single room in a 3-bed flat), which is about 5 min from the hospital. We were also given vouchers (€ 4.50) for the canteen, but sometimes even when the chosen meal exceeded this amount minimally, some of the ladies in the canteen turned a blind eye and did not make us pay extra 😊

The food itself is not sensational (3 versions of a hot meal to choose from) but considering that it is free, there is nothing to complain about. And most importantly - you get pocket money, about € 360 - € 400, here depending on the month.

They also reimburse you for your travel home (within the limit of € 170 per month, you can go twice - the following month your account usually receives the pocket money plus the amount spent on travel).

The hospital also insures us (some people have had a lot of confusion about this, but I can't comment further on this - I didn't have this problem, everything was sorted out without complications with the local Krankenkasse over the Internet connection, literally at a glance). The hospital also provides a library, so you can use textbooks in German (= easier acquisition of new vocabulary).



Important information, contacts that will help in the implementation of mobility?

The hospital website gives all the information you need, there is even a brochure for PJers like us. All you have to do is write an email, outline your situation - in the case of an traineeship, state exactly how many weeks on which ward and naturally attach documents like CVs, scans of your diploma etc.

I recommend writing to them early, preferably at the beginning of January (or earlier), as there are also German students there and there may simply not be a place at the time you want. Language certificate welcome, but not necessary.



Attractions in the area worth seeing?

Neubrandenburg is a very small town, so in my opinion there are no revelations. The Centre is quite nice, but in terms of sightseeing it's better to visit, e.g. Rostock or Berlin, which are within 2h.

Advantages of going on an internship under the Erasmus+ Program?

The financial support allows for travel and more than just 'getting through' the month. I didn't use the language platform much, in my case it was moderately useful. It is more useful if one is a beginner (from what I have glanced at the available courses in languages other than German).

