

Internships in Germany to start careers

Young Ukrainians get the chance to collect practical know-how and international experience in Germany to facilitate their employment in Ukraine

The challenge: youth unemployment in Ukraine

One of the priority problems of Ukraine is the high level of youth unemployment. According to the figures published by the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, in 2018 nearly 20% of the younger population (15-24 year old people) are jobless. Even university graduates face issues finding adequate employment or have to accept jobs not corresponding to their academic qualifications. On the other hand, many Ukrainian companies complain about lack of qualified personnel and absence of practical skills of applicants. The lack of international experience and practical know-how, also due to a very theoretically oriented education at the Ukrainian universities, are reducing in many cases the career opportunities of university graduates. The Ukrainian Government aims to increase employment of young citizens and hence to reach its national 2030 Agenda development goals.



Project title: Internship Programme of German Business for Ukraine

Commissioned by: German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Implementing organisation: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Lead executing agency: Ministry of Development of Economy, Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine (MEDTA)

Partner: German companies, Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UCCI)

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Project area: All regions of Ukraine

Contact: Dr. Berthold Volberg/berthold.volberg@giz.de

Our approach: better job opportunities by completing international internships

On behalf of the German Government, GIZ supports the creation of better job opportunities for university graduates in the Ukrainian labour market, thus assisting Ukraine in achieving its national 2030 Agenda. In close cooperation with German companies and the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UCCI), GIZ arranges internships which last 3-6 months and take place in Germany. These internships are an important contribution to promote future potential of Ukraine: highly motivated graduates will get a fair chance to improve their professional perspectives on an international level. After participating in this programme, they will return to Ukraine having collected business contacts and international experience. Thus, the Ukrainian economy will benefit from future input of their know-how. An internship in Germany is the core element of this programme, which is backed up by application trainings and networking events in order to provide further job search assistance. Apart from practical training, the scholars learn about German business culture and innovative management tools. After returning to Ukraine, they generally find an adequate workplace according to their qualifications.



Scholarship holders at the kick-off seminar in Bonn



Dmytro Shapoval during his internship in the municipal recycling company EAD in Darmstadt



Kseniia Taranova in her office at the insurance company Hannover Rück

Our results: internships for nearly 200 young people

Since 2015, more than 2.000 Ukrainian students, who had already completed at least 6 semesters, and graduates have applied for an internship in Germany through this programme. Until January 2020, internship placements for 196 scholarship holders have been arranged in 90 German companies, about half of them for women. By completing an internship in Germany, the participants improved their job prospects considerably: nearly 82% of those who completed their internship in 2015–2018, found a job soon after their return to

Ukraine or established their own business. More than 90% of them confirmed that skills and expertise gained through the internship were relevant for their work. The programme participants keep in touch through an alumni network for professional exchange. The German companies also communicated to be very pleased with the performance of their interns from Ukraine: in 2019, 93% of the companies confirmed a considerable increase of the professional expertise during the internship.



Pavlo Kotenko: „It was my first career step“

„Internship in Germany gave me experience and knowledge, which I have many times already applied in my job. During the internship at KWS each intern blends into the company’s team. The internship gave me a chance to experience work and management style in a leading German company, which I will try to introduce in Ukraine.“



Sofia Sergulya: „This programme helped me become more competitive on the Ukrainian job market“

„In autumn 2015 I was one of the first generation of scholarship holders of this internship programme. In the framework of the programme, I have spent 4 months in Düsseldorf being a part of Corporate Public Policy team at METRO Group, one of the largest global diversified wholesalers. Apart from enhancing my language skills, I have deepened my knowledge of global markets, learnt lobbying tools of international corporations and tested effective communication techniques. This internship has significantly helped me become more competitive on Ukrainian job market and get a position of a research specialist in the international consulting company Roland Berger.“

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GIZ Ukraine
Internship Programme of German Business for Ukraine
20 Velyka Zhytomyrska Street, 5th floor
01001 Kyiv, Ukraine
T +38 044 501 39 65
I www.giz.de/ukraine

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Text: Dr. Berthold Volberg

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