

Rolls-Royce Internship: General Experience

Gabriel Mecklenburg

Rolls-Royce Deutschland is a subsidiary of Rolls-Royce plc. The company develops, builds and maintains gas turbines for civil and military jet engines as well as marine applications and power generation. At Dahlewitz, a suburb of Berlin, approximately 1800 employees work on mainly small civil jet engines.

I was assigned to the R&D department "OE-53 – Rotatives Engineering", and I was mainly supervised by Dr. Hartmut Schlums.

I worked on the prediction of turbine component lifetimes using the numerical method of finite element analysis. The topic was of particular interest to me since it had only been covered in minor detail in lectures beforehand. I was able to gain a broader view of the subject on top of completing an interesting stand-alone project. The methods I employed (especially finite element modelling) had to be learned on the job. They will be useful to me in my further endeavours. I very much appreciate that the hosting institution (Rolls-Royce) gave me the chance to do work that was not just an exercise but was useful for my employers. It was a good experience to be able to develop a detailed project from the suggestions and ideas of my supervisor. The support given by my colleagues and superiors was plentiful and helped my understanding a great deal. I also feel that the placement has helped me gain some insights into what working at the R&D department of a large company is like.

I have found Berlin to be a vibrant and stimulating place especially for young people. There are endless possibilities for spending one's free time. Ten weeks is just enough to start to get familiar with a few of these. I can only recommend a visit to this city for any student.

The people I have met, both at and outside of work, have been friendly and helpful, making me feel welcome from the first day.

Overall I have had a great summer and would highly recommend this placement to any future students that are thinking about taking part in the European Summer Placement Scheme.