

ERASMUS experience report

Practical semester – Pininfarina Engineering

Torino, Italy

During my practical semester, I worked in the quality management department of Pininfarina Engineering. I was supporting in the engineering quality team both on customer project activities and on centre of competence projects to increase my understanding of the processes that rule a typical automotive/industrial engineering development.

Pininfarina Engineering's core competences are product- and process engineering services. Pininfarina Engineering is part of the Pininfarina Group. They have nearly 700 employees in Italy, Germany, China and the United States. The office I worked in was in Torino.

My main project was the analysis of Jira Core aimed to an introduction as for issue tracking and project management tool in Pininfarina, including the support in the implementation of Jira Core as problem tracking tool on a first pilot project.

Apart from the content, the linguistical and cultural aspect played a major role in the personal development. Due to the circumstances, I improved my Italian significantly, adapted myself to the culture and found my way through the previously unknown work environment.

This was a great opportunity for me to engage into the foreign language and the communication culture. For the whole period, I was very busy improving my language skills and my brain adapted to these challenging circumstances.

However, the work environment is very pleasant and my colleagues very kindly received me. Everybody is on a first name basis and all greet each other. Some traditional German companies are very old fashioned in this regard. I personally prefer this slightly loose atmosphere, which reduces barriers.

Big tanks to all my colleagues who supported during the internship. I always felt a very positive atmosphere and overall it was a great pleasure to work for Pininfarina Engineering. They patiently helped me to develop my Italian and I truly made a huge progress in these five months.

Turin as a great city with a beautiful historical centre and vibrant city districts like San Salvario. Generally, Piedmont has a lot to offer. North and west are surrounded by the French-Swiss-Italian Alps and therefore suitable for all kinds of outdoor activities. In the south there are the famous vineyards Langhe and Roero with lots of small towns, good restaurants and amazing wines.

I definitely recommend Torino and Italy in general for your ERASMUS experience. The Italians make it very easy for you to connect and make friends. They are happy to share their culture with you. My advice is to learn the local language. It will contribute to your experience significantly.