

1. Kathrin Knoell/ from August 2013 to February 2014/ **London - United Kingdom**

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Statement: What would you say to the people who are still hesitating if long-term mobility is for them?

I would say, that I completely understand their doubts and it can be a quite overwhelming and daunting when you first arrive in a new country but despite possible fears, it's an absolute worthwhile experience that nobody can take from you. If you have the possibility in your life, I think everybody should, at some point, go through the experience of living (and working) abroad. Personally, it had such a positive effect on my professional career, my language skills and my personal development.

Also, I felt like that the contact person (on-site) who is responsible for you was very supportive and they are always there for you if you have any troubles, e.g. in regards with your workplace or accommodation.

Answers to other questions:

“My project abroad was part of my '**Erzieherausbildung**' (**Early Years Studies**) in Germany, hence I worked as a student apprentice at a nursery in South London. After completing a mandatory language course for a period of three months, I started working at the private nursery four days a week. I had a tutor who was mainly responsible for guiding and tutoring me. The nursery was divided into two different age groups and I was working with children from 2-3 years. On a daily basis, I helped with care routines such as mealtimes, toilet training and sleep times and also supported the children's development through planned learning activities. Occasionally, we also took the children to outings, such as the local parks.”

I think that the experience of living in London had a huge impact on my personal development.

After completing the project and returning back to my home country, I realised that I wanted to continue on living abroad. I shared my thoughts with my manager (where I completed my internship in London) and he made me a job offer in one of his other nurseries, which I happily accepted. After successfully completing my studies in Germany, I then moved back to London in August 2014 and started my first job there which I got thanks to the project with GEB. Since then, six and a half years ago, I still live in London and had different jobs and I can say that taking part in the project has completely changed my life in a positive way and I am so grateful for that.

The stay abroad made me realise what I wanted in my life and it reinforced my wish to live abroad permanently and build up a life in London. I went through different jobs in the Early Years sector and have built up a great social network abroad with a lot of friends and a partner. Even if I decide to move back to Germany again one day, having moved to London is the best decision I have ever made and an experience that will have an effect on me my whole life.

2. Katharina Spahrbier: August 2014 - January 2015, **Derry**

E-Mail: Katharina_Spahrbier@gmx.de

Statement: What would you say to the people who are still hesitating if long-term mobility is for them?

Just do it. You won't be completely alone while you are there and everybody is really nice and supporting. Plus, mostly there always is some other student there who speaks your language, so you will feel a little more relaxed. But it is a great opportunity and you shouldn't let that pass you by.

Answers to other questions:

"I went to Derry during my **training to become a kindergardener**. Every day I went to school and worked as a TA (teaching assistent) at a preschool."

How this experience has changed your life?

" I still remember my time in Derry very fondly, I am still in contact with my host family, my teacher and a few people from there. A lot of them helped me to gain self-confidence in my language skills and in other aspects of my personality. I guess I will still remember that experience when I am 80 years old. I could say that this experience gave me the self-confidence to finally start my studies at the university to become a German and English teacher."

3. Fabian J. Kaddick, between 2014 and 2015, for a total of 9 months,
London

Statement: What would you say to the people who are still hesitating if long-term mobility is for them?

If you want to learn to manage your own life and become more mature, it is an important experience. Learning the language is a very good side effect.

Answers to other questions:

In London I continued the second year of my goldsmithing apprenticeship. "I had just turned 18 and was part of the London professional life for 9 months. It was hard as it was a big change compared to home. But the incredible amount of positive as well as negative experiences made me much more mature. In the meantime, I am incredibly surrounded by the English language. This has allowed me to do a lot in my professional and private life. Since I am the only one in the company who has an English experience abroad, I am responsible for all matters concerning the English language.

In 2018, I also attended a professional gemstone setting training for 3 months in Antwerp. This was only possible because I could speak English fluently. Before I went to London, I hardly spoke any English. "

4. Kyra Bubel, 2011/ 2012, 4 month

E-mail: Kyra_Bubel@gmx.de

Statement: What would you say to the people who are still hesitating if long-term mobility is for them?

GO FOR IT!! It will be a great life-experience which is really unique. Going abroad is an experience that will increase self-esteem.

Answers to other questions:

I worked in a bilingual day nursery (franco-allemand). I supported the bilingual staff, in first play I spoke in german. My daily basis was to support the children in their development, observing them during free play, preparing meals, planning excursions and have conversations with the parents.

It was the first time that I worked with toddlers and this was a really good experience. After the placement I started a job in a Kindergarten in Berlin where I was also responsible for toddlers as the creche hasn't opened by the time. I was very pleased that I made the experience with toddlers beforehand, so I was much more confident in my job in Berlin.

I was really confident in my job after the placement. I still go every now and then to Strasbourg, through my sports, I made there a lot of friends.

In Berlin, I also applied for a binlingual Kindergarten (Franco-allemand). I am always happy to go back to Strasbourg, I would have never found this nice city without mobility. I even took my family there and they love Strasbourg.

I can see an lasting effect on my intercultural competence. I wished I would have stayed longer for the language, four month was not enough to get an lasting effect on my language skill