



Darmstadtin Mira ja Illona

We study food production and we got the chance to go to Germany for our on-the-job-training period for six weeks. We (Mira and Ilona) left with (now graduated) Miisa on Monday morning on 23.2.2015. We flew from Helsinki to Frankfurt, from where we traveled by bus to Darmstadt. Our teacher Sirpa escorted us and stayed with us for 5 days. Kristin (international coordinator) took us to our apartment and showed us around Darmstadt.



We got a few days to “settle down” and we started our work on 25.2. Miisa worked at bakery called Breithaupt and we two went to Hoffman. Our working days started at five in the morning and lasted 6-9 hours. We travelled to work by tram since it was about 7 kilometer trip. Our work environment was very nice and we got along well, even though only a few people at Hoffman spoke English. We learned to make bretzels and streusel stückhens and many other products.



In the picture Jonas (left) and Michael Hoffman (the owner of the bakery), Rene(down) Ilona, Mira and Dominic



Our petit fours at Hoffman

At work we got to know Mike, who introduced us to the environment on our free time. We went to three different castles, went skiing and one night we drove to Frankfurt to look at skyscrapers. He also introduced us to German nightlife.

We also saw Kristin every week. We went with her to the Frankfurt Zoo, after which we ate at an Italian restaurant called Vapiano, among other things. Kristin also called us to eat dinner at her place. She offered us raclette (which was really good!).

We lived at an apartment hostel right in the center of town. Our apartment was a large studio apartment, but for the three of us it was pretty cramped and there was very little personal space. The best part about our apartment was the bath tub. We rarely cooked our own food, because the kitchen space and kitchenware were rather limited. We went to town and the Luisencenter mall almost daily, since it was only a 10-15 minute walk from our apartment. We also got frapuccinos at Starbucks every week, since there's so few of these cafes in Finland. We got to keep contact with our friends and family via Whatsapp and Facebook after we bought our web prepaid. Kristin helped us get them, since we probably couldn't have done it alone.

On the second to last week we were getting to know the first year food production / baking students at the local vocational school. Nobody spoke English there, but we managed to get by with body language. The assignments were pretty easy for us, but work ethics differed greatly from what we had been taught. Everybody at the school were really friendly and helpful towards us.



There was only one girl in the class (who doesn't appear in the picture), as baking is more of a male job in Germany.



Some work we did at school. The mass in pictures is practice dough, it wasn't put in the oven and it wasn't edible. It was reusable.

We headed home 5.4. Mike took us to Frankfurt, which was a relief because we had stress about getting to the airport. Our trip was a success and we had a wonderful experience. Sometimes the days passed slowly and we felt a little home sick, but thinking back about the experience, the six weeks went really fast. We recommend doing work placement abroad to everyone who has the chance!



Some pictures from our on-the-job learning period in Germany