

**BMW
GROUP**



BMW Group | Greenville, SC, USA

Christian

Faculty Mechanical Engineering | Mechanical Engineering

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BMW Group

BMW is an international car and motorcycle producer. It was founded in 1916. In 2017 the BMW Group produced 2.5 Million cars.

The biggest production plant within the BMW Group is in the United States. The Plant Spartanburg produces around 1450 cars per day. At this location BMW manufactures the BMW X3, X4, X5 and X6 models.

The BMW Information Technology and Research Center is located next to the Plant. In this Building BMW operates IT and innovative projects for the whole BMW Group.

Greenville, SC, USA

South Carolina is a state in the South-East of the USA. The State is between Georgia and North Carolina at the Atlantic Coast. South Carolina has the surname Palmetto State based on the Palmetto palm. It is very famous for the coast with subtropical weather and its marshy sea islands. At Fort Sumter in SC the civil war began. The landscape is very diverse in South Carolina. On the west side of SC are a lot of lakes and mountains.

Greenville is the fastest growing area in SC. This is based on the automotive industry in this area. BMW and the suppliers of BMW shape the economy in Greenville and SC.



Tasks during the Internship

I worked at the BMW Information Technology and Research Center in Greenville, SC. My daily business was focused on Industry 4.0. We developed innovative solutions for the production line. My main work area was Predictive Maintenance in Plant Spartanburg. Due to a close cooperation with the Clemson University International Center for Automotive Research (CU-ICAR) my work was a crossover between research and development of emerging technologies. All these projects were managed in an agile methodology.



Gained and improved Skills:

- Industry 4.0
- Emerging Technologies
- Internet of Things
- Agile Project Management
- Project Planning
- Communication
- Strategic Thinking



Impressions

Especially working in a different country and culture helps to improve yourself. At the beginning I was overwhelmed by the new impressions. But after a short acclimatization and a lot of support by the team members I grew into my new role. I became an important part of the team and I improved my personal and professional skills. Furthermore, I got to know a new culture, country and a lot of new people and friends.

All these points helped me to prepare for my future career and showed me how to become more adaptable to new situations.

Culture

The Americans are very open and extrovert. They begin every conversation with some small talk. This helps to build trust and a comfortable discussion atmosphere. A really good small talk topic is sports, because the Americans love it. High school, college or professional - all types of sports have a really high value in the American culture. Another special value for Americans are their cars. Especially Pick-up Trucks and SUVs are very popular in the USA. But this comes along with a negative touch of the American culture. They have a consumer society which does not care about the environment as much as necessary.



Tips and suggestions for future Interns

- Do an internship aboard, if you have the opportunity
- Plan the internship in time
 - Apply for an internship at desired company
 - Apply for VISA
- Figure out, how you can finance the internship
 - Costs for flight, VISA, health insurance and initial costs
 - Apply for scholarship
 - Financing over student loan sometimes possible
- Contact interns who are doing the internship at the moment or did it, to get important information and tips
- Travel as much as possible

The Life after...

After my Internship in the USA I am going to start my Master degree in mechanical engineering at the RWTH Aachen. In this practical year I learned a lot for my future career and I am encouraged in my route to work hard for the dream to work at BMW. Especially as an engineer there are many situations which provide the opportunity to work aboard. An internship in the USA enables first insights what to expect from a stay aboard. I definitely want to come back to the USA, if there is a possibility in the future.



