

QMUL Expeditions Fund

After completing my second year of university in Software Engineering, I aimed to enhance my practical skills for the post-university phase by gaining industry experience during the summer preceding my final year. Consequently, I successfully secured a position in Munich, Germany, as an EMC Software Development Intern at Rohde & Schwarz, supported by the expeditions fund.

Throughout the four-month internship, I focused on developing a unit converter for the electromagnetic compatibility software ELEKTRA, utilising WPF (C# and XAML). Beyond acquiring technical proficiency, the experience also allowed me to hone my soft skills by adapting to collaborative team dynamics, understanding cultural nuances in a work environment, and engaging with stakeholders. I anticipate that

this industry exposure will facilitate a smoother transition from university to the professional domain following my final year at QM.



Figure 1: Neues Rathaus (New Town Hall), Munich, Germany

In addition to my internship responsibilities, I dedicated time to improving my proficiency in the German language. Before the internship, I was enrolled in a B2 class in German language and Culture at QM. Immersed in the language during my stay in Munich and participating in relevant evening classes at the Münchner Volkshochschule further strengthened my language skills.

I am of the opinion that my summer spent in Munich has been instrumental in my personal growth. Navigating the challenges and triumphs of living abroad has cultivated independence and allowed me to acclimate to a new culture and language. This experience has, in turn, fostered essential life skills such as adaptability, resilience, and effective communication.

Munich and its surrounding areas are also stunning. Though Munich itself is a vibrant city with a historic city centre, the famous Oktoberfest, and beer gardens, I particularly enjoyed winding down in the countryside. As a London native, I don't often get to see the beauty of the world. There are many areas of exceptional natural beauty just a train journey away.

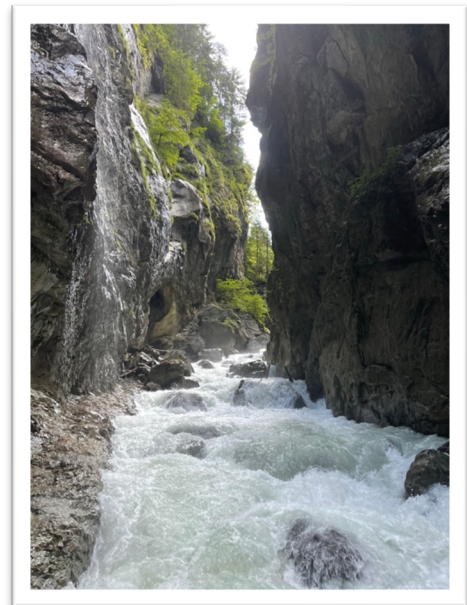


Figure 2: Partnachklamm (Partnach Gorge), Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany



Figure 3: Tegernsee, Germany

One of the highlights was my visit to Partnachklamm, a deep gorge near the German/Austrian border. The experience of seeing and feeling the sheer power of the water was one I will never forget.

There are also several stunning lakes in the immediate vicinity of Munich. My favourites were Tegernsee, Walchensee, and Königssee. The atmosphere at these lakes contrasts the bustle of Munich completely – perfect places for a weekend getaway.

Staying in Central Europe also provides easy access to neighbouring countries. I took full advantage of this and booked a car to travel around the Alps. During my road trip, I went on the longest Alpine coaster in Austria, went on several hikes, drove to the Dolomites in Italy, and saw the Milky Way for the first time in my life.

In summary, I am convinced that the enriching experience of living and working abroad during the summer has not only added depth to my academic knowledge but has also contributed significantly to my personal development, creating enduring memories and establishing a solid foundation for future success.



Figure 4: Gasthaus Edelweißhütte, Villnöß, Italy

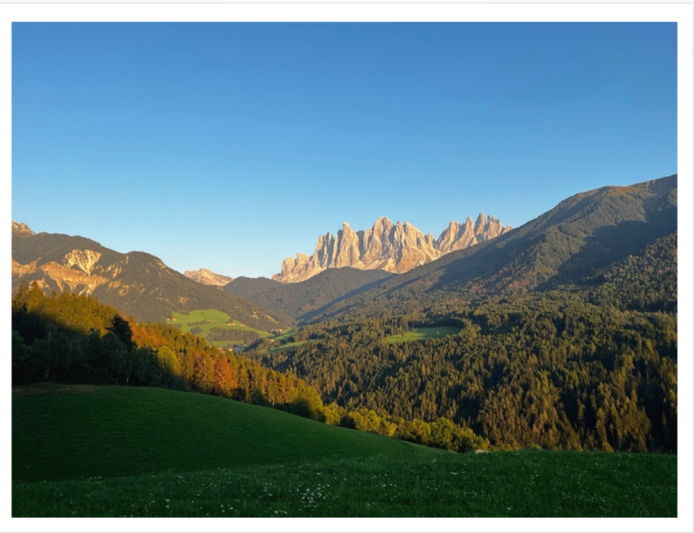


Figure 5: Villnöß, Italy