



Kuehne + Nagel internship gives German student hands-on warehousing experience in Memphis

Getting on-the-job training is a powerful advantage for university students, as well as the companies for which they intern. Generally lasting four to six months, Kuehne + Nagel internships combine day-to-day business activities with project-related tasks.

Following a series of successful interviews, German university student Alexander Keck, majoring in mechanical engineering and management, was identified as a strong prospect and recommended for a summer internship in the United States. Memphis, Tenn., was chosen because of the multi-faceted functions the shared and dedicated distribution centres (DCs) in the area perform. The Memphis DC manager agreed to sponsor Alexander.

“Because of my studies, I was used to viewing everything from the manufacturing perspective. Since production is affected by logistics and supply chain requirements, I was eager to get a deeper insight into distribution. I also was looking forward to working in an American environment,” Alexander said. “In companies in Germany there's a movement toward ‘open-door’ policy and less hierarchy, but it still can be a cultural challenge to implement. It's a big motivator to be able to talk to your boss when you need to.”

Alexander received hands-on training in the DC's turnkey packaging area for a PC peripherals manufacturer. “The intern has the advantage of coming in cold to all the processes,” said the Kuehne + Nagel Memphis DC manager. “He or she brings a more critical eye, so as we explain all the processes, we find that an update or a re-engineering may be appropriate.”

During his assignment, Alexander was involved in a number of projects, including analysing financing alternatives for truck lifts to identify whether renting, leasing or purchasing was most cost-effective. He also implemented a cardboard recycling process.

“I was treated more like a trainee or a manager-in-training than an intern. I tried to fulfil all expectations and confidence that my superiors had placed in me, working independently and responsibly.”

Kuehne + Nagel internships are a door opener for a future career as a high calibre expert or manager within the company. Whatever business field or functional unit a student chooses, Kuehne + Nagel makes sure you receive profound insight into the company. Interns can expect both valuable know-how and an excellent opportunity to prove their worth to one of the leading global logistics providers.

