



Working and living in Tokyo - an incredible experience

An internship report from Alexander Voigt, student at the Graduate School of Management WHU in Vallendar/Germany, who spent several months with Kuehne + Nagel in Japan in 2005.

To work and live in Tokyo has been a long-time dream of mine, and Kuehne + Nagel gave me the unique opportunity to realise this dream by offering me an internship in Japan.

Kuehne + Nagel Japan may not be one of the Group's largest national organisations, but it is expanding its activities at incredible speed in a very difficult and demanding environment. The domestic logistics market is rather settled, divided between the traditional Japanese logistics players. Thanks to its enormous efforts, however, Kuehne + Nagel has been able to successfully establish itself in this market, gaining shares and winning new customers fast.

My role was that of an assistant to the very experienced contract logistics manager at the Tokyo branch, a small but highly flexible and rapidly expanding division, and I quickly realised that intimate knowledge of the Japanese culture, language and customs is a key factor to lasting success here.

Most of the time I worked at a subcontracted warehouse located not far from Disneyland Tokyo. This was a truly amazing and challenging experience, as I got to know the ultimate in Japanese office culture, which is indeed quite different from the office atmosphere that exists "in the west" - different, but in a positive, very interesting way.

My projects included regular contact with a key customer and I was strongly involved in day-to-day operational issues. This gave me the possibility not only to learn about contract logistics, but also to gain experience in other fields, such as airfreight and seafreight export. Another very interesting task I was set was to develop and implement a KPI tool to measure and analyse key performance indicators in the warehouse.

The internship with Kuehne + Nagel in Japan enabled me to gain valuable insight and in particular to benefit from the knowledge of my extremely friendly and experienced colleagues. It also provided me with the incredible opportunity to live in what I consider one of the most interesting countries in the world. I can only recommend to everyone interested in gaining first hand experience in logistics to apply for an internship with Kuehne + Nagel.

For further information contact campus-recruitment@kuehne-nagel.com.

