

Apprentice Exchange 2024 in Rheinböllen

Ten days of technology, teamwork, and new perspectives for Yannik from Engen

On April 2, 2024, when I arrived in Rheinböllen, Shari Siebert, the People & Culture Consultant, welcomed me. She first gave me a safety briefing, then took me on a tour of the entire company. After lunch, she introduced me to my "buddies," Leon and Valentin, who are also apprentices. I started by finishing the guardrail on a system with them so that I could then help with commissioning. Until the end of the workday, we checked the throttle check valves. After work, Shari and Leon took me to the HAHN Apartments, where I moved into my room for the next week and a half. We also discussed the activities planned for the next few days. Then, we drove to Simmern so I could see the vocational school.

On Tuesday, Leon Winkler, a commissioning technician, supervised me. Until lunchtime, we continued commissioning the system from the previous day. We cut and installed an item profile for two system components and mounted the washers on the robots. After work, Shari and I went to CrossFit in Kastellaun with a few other colleagues. After an exhausting day, I fell into bed completely worn out.

The next morning, Leon and I continued the commissioning process. This mainly involved reducing the cycle time and making final adjustments. I also spent some of my free time looking into the programmers' work to learn more about their tasks. After work, I sat with Shari, Valentin, Leon, and a few others in the canteen to unwind for the evening. Then, I headed back to my accommodations.

The following day, I started working on module assembly. There, I helped with centralized lubrication systems and other assembly tasks. This included cutting threads, fastening cable brackets, routing hoses, and fitting distribution blocks with connectors. At around 4:00 p.m., we finished for the day because we had plans to play laser tag in Koblenz. We played three rounds and had a great time. Afterward, we ate together at a brewery restaurant. After a great meal, we went to a bar with excellent cocktails. I finally got back to the apartments around 1:00 a.m.



On Saturday morning, I had to get up pretty early. An excursion to St. Goarshausen was on the agenda, and the weather was perfect. Valentin, Shari, and I took the ferry from St. Goar to St. Goarshausen. Once we arrived, Leon and his girlfriend picked us up so we could visit the Loreley together. There we found a summer toboggan



run, Pit-Pat, and a fantastic view of the opposite side of the Rhine. First, we tried out the toboggan run. After that, we sat down in a beer garden by the open-air stage and had lunch. Then we played Pit-Pat, a combination of mini golf and billiards. It was especially fun because the course was uneven, making it harder to hit the targets properly. We ended the day on the Loreley by visiting a viewing platform and taking some nice photos.



On Sunday, we went paintballing. In the morning, Leon, his girlfriend, and I drove into the woods to play. First, we picked up the equipment, received a safety briefing, and then the first game started.

Only later did we realize that another HAHN employee was there as well. We spontaneously decided to play against him and his group. Overall, we were happy with our performance. After dinner, we went to an airfield with a great view of the entire city of Koblenz. We spent the evening relaxing there before heading back to the HAHN Apartments.



Work started again on Monday after the weekend. This time, I was able to help Jonathan set up his AP2 final project. This experience provided me with valuable insights for my own upcoming final exam. I was able to expand my knowledge and pick up valuable tips, especially in areas like mechanical and electrical design, as well as hosing and wiring. I also had the opportunity to observe Valentin's interesting setup a few times. The advantage of an exam setup like this is that no modifications are needed on the day of the exam—only the technical interview takes place. I helped Jonathan assemble the frame and prepare everything else until the end of the day. After work, we drove to Geierlay, a suspension bridge in Mörsdorf. It was truly overwhelming to be there, and I took a few pictures to remember it. After visiting the bridge, we went to

Lautzenhausen to eat. At the restaurant, we had a really delicious dinner. At around 10 p.m., we decided to head home because I had school the next day and wanted to get a good night's rest.



The next morning, I went to Simmern. During the first two classes, we had English and worked on some simple reading comprehension exercises. CNC milling on the computer was new to me since we don't do that in Engen. That's why I had difficulty completing the tasks. After class, I spent the afternoon at the HAHN Apartments, where we had planned to play Mario Kart.



On the last day, I worked until noon, mainly on module assembly. I talked with the apprentices about the exam, and then we had our final lunch together. Afterwards, I said goodbye to everyone and emptied my locker. With my car packed full, I set off for home on April 10th.

In conclusion: Seeing what kinds of tasks come up at another large site was a really exciting experience. I also had a great time during my free time. If something like this came up again, I would definitely participate. 😊