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Svenja Grotkopp
From Germany to Singapore



Seconded name: Svenja Grotkopp

Assignment period: November 2023 - February 2024 (3 months)

From: PKF WULF Group, Germany

To: PKF CAP, Singapore

Going abroad has never been as easy as nowadays. I am so thankful that PKF supports international exchange and gave me the opportunity to experience another country so far away from home, a different culture, as well as a different work environment.

For 12 weeks I was seconded to the PKF Office in Singapore, which is located in the middle of Singapore's central business district. The view from the 38th floor of the office was breathtaking. On the one side you could see the harbour and the open sea and on the other side, you could watch what was happening in downtown.

I was able to get a really good insight into the Singaporean work culture and into the Singaporean everyday life.

The Singaporean office is divided into different departments. I was assigned to the tax department. My experience was quite enriching since I was open to everything that would await me.

I was allowed to get a taste of different tax and other services in the Singapore office. All my questions were answered patiently and in detail. The work in Germany and Singapore is not that different as I thought, in my perception it's just the different personalities in the way they work.

On the surface, the financial and tax advice, as well as the legal basis for this, have the same system and very similar ways of thinking, which made it quite easy for me to understand all my tasks and the Singaporean tax structure.

All the colleagues I met were so welcoming and hospitable. Every Lunchtime I was taken into town for lunch and was shown different local and general Asian dishes. Whether it was Chinese, Korean, Malaysian, Indian, Japanese, "Singaporean", I tried every cuisine.

Everyone made an effort to introduce me to Asian culture.



In 12 weeks living in Singapore, you get a totally different insight than in a two-day layover.

I would say Singapore is a very modern, green, glamorous, and liveable city.

Everything was well organised, clean, and very decorative.

I stayed in a co-living place. Through different group events organized by the letting agency, I met many other exchange workers, students, and interns from all over the world.

In General Singapore was very multicultural, which was not only super interesting, but also made my stay and meeting new people much easier.

On the weekends and public holidays, I had the opportunity to explore Singapore and also the surrounding countries. And I can only say "it's definitely worth it."

I am Beyond grateful for my Singaporean colleagues and all the nice people I met on my way who made my stay even more enjoyable and especially for PKF for giving me this opportunity.

And to everyone who considers to going abroad, I can only say, "do it, it's worth it, you can only grow from this experience".

I, personally, fell in love with a continent I never thought I would like that much and at the same time I learned a lot more about the international business world, a different culture and myself.

