

Participant details	
First name	Valentina
Last name	Maniscalco
Erasmus+ Mobility details	
Organisation name	Expert Tooling & Automation Ltd
Mobility dates	24.07.17 – 29.09.17
Place of Mobility	Coventry, UK

Valentina's Testimonial:

"While working at Expert Tooling & Automation Ltd I gained a significant insight in the chosen field, worked alongside highly skilled and dedicated staff. I gained experience as a Marketing & Admin Assistant and overseen how a professional company runs on a day to day basis. I also experienced in working in a team.

The Erasmus+ mobility experience was my first time travelling abroad alone as well as the longest time I had been away from home. Even though I had preferred if I had shared this experience with other students, I was the only intern assigned to a company in Coventry. However, I decided to look at this opportunity as a new challenge and see what it had to offer. The host family I was staying with were very welcoming and helpful. After some time, they started treating me as one of them but at the same time still respected my space.

Expert; the company where I was doing my internship, is a successful SME business in the UK. I had the opportunity to work in a professional working environment and gain basic knowledge about how the automation and tooling manufacturing industry operates. My mentor was very understanding and always listened whenever I had a question; if I ever was unsure about something assigned to me or simply personal interest about how certain situations are handled in the company. My role assigned was that of marketing intern and I did provide my input with marketing related tasks such as planning exhibition stands, setting up Expert's Twitter account, designing a mini site to serve as promotion as well as recommend

improvements that could be made to Expert's website. These were all new tasks for me which I enjoyed doing. However, being a business-to-business organization, I felt that Expert does not give much importance to digital marketing and this was where I found certain limitations. To begin with, Expert does not have anyone that is directly in charge of marketing and since my mentor worked in Human Resources, we always had to depend on approvals or replies from other sales/ R&D employees before I could proceed with certain tasks. Unfortunately, this process sometimes took days and even weeks.

In the meantime, I had the opportunity to help my mentor with her Human Resources tasks, which I found interesting. This helped me achieve some experience in HRM as well. I even covered reception for a week and got to meet more Expert employees as well as greet and handle customers coming from big companies such as Jaguar/Land Rover.

This Erasmus+ mobility experience has helped me improve my social skills, become more responsible, be more confident in taking risks and given me an insight of what it's like to both work and live in another country. I also took the opportunity of being abroad to travel to nearby places, see different cultures and meet different people. All in all, it was a very positive experience and if I had another similar opportunity in the future, I would not miss it."

