

“IT BROADENED MY HORIZONS IN MANY WAYS”

The Haniel scholarship programme of the German National Academic Foundation gave economics student Blanka Horvath (23) the opportunity to study for a year in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong, a metropolis in the heart of South East Asia. Reporting on their experiences, many European students say that Hong Kong is a city in which they would like to spend the rest of their lives. I can completely identify with this enthusiasm.

I went to Hong Kong to complete my Master of Economics degree. I arrived ten days before the start of the semester. I was excited about the prospect of experiencing first-hand the special features of the Chinese economy. In this way, theory would become reality. I was particularly looking forward to being able to speak to fellow students after lectures about the topics we had covered. Everyone was very welcoming towards me and complimented me whenever my Chinese improved. I was lucky enough to live in a hall of residence on the campus of the University of Hong Kong, which meant that I was part of the dynamic university life right from the start. The sense of community is much stronger than what I have experienced in Europe. There was a wide range of activities on offer outside lectures – for example a debating club, which met between 6pm and 10pm on Mondays. It accepts only a few new members every year. The selection procedure was tough, but I was allowed to join and take part in debates.

Shortly after completing my studies, I heard about an internship position available at the Dutch trade group LC International. I applied, was invited to an interview – and started that same month.



The internship lasted two months. During this time, I gained an insight into the areas of marketing, production and logistics. I also helped to redesign the company website. I learnt a great deal from the quality controls at production sites. I accompanied employees responsible for this on visits to two sites, and experienced the production process with my own eyes. There was a very pleasant working environment at LC. I found it particularly striking that, even as an intern, I was given responsibility and opportunities for decision-making. This level of trust increased my motivation and my commitment to the company. The experience has left me with a lasting positive impression of industrial practices.

My stay in Hong Kong broadened my horizons in many ways. I spent a year in an incredibly international community. This allowed me to learn a great deal about other cultures, but also about how other cultures perceive Germany. And I made friends with whom I hope to stay in contact for the rest of my life. ||