Why don’t you grab a coffee…

6 years of event and marketing experience in two of the most cutting-edge organizations in Europe and North America.

In a time where employment has become a volatile thing, I have found this constantly shifting employment status to be a way to thrive in different environments and change the nature of work relationships over time. Starting out at one of the largest pride and community organizations in Europe, my position as a Marketing Assistant over the years turned into a Social Media Specialist position and, due to my long-term residences in the UK and United States, I was later offered a freelance activity as a German-English translator for the organization. While the work-relationship might not be active at all times, however that doesn’t mean it is not there anymore as long as it is maintained from both sides. Currently, we are talking about a redesign of the organization’s website and possible adjustments to make the website more accessible for people that face certain impairments.

In what has become an increasingly global and more and more Asia-Centric world I took every chance to get educated in different cultures, such as a High School year in Japan, Work and Travel in the UK or my Master Degree in the United States. These experiences have uniquely equipped me with conflict resolution techniques and a mind-set that furthers mutual understanding. As a cultural chameleon I have the politeness and smile of a Japanese, the work-ethic of an American, the diligence of a British and the honesty of a German. Beginning July 2017 I’m going to be adding the friendliness of a Canadian. Three continents and five countries later I can, without a doubt, say, I’m a truly globalized person and I love it.

Coming to the United States I started working for the original artist-led entrepreneurial record label Righteous Babe and the incorporated music venue Babeville. Working as an intern over the summer, only a month after its conclusion, my supervisor and, now, close friend approached me and hired me back as a Marketing and Event Specialist. Through the mentorship of her, I was quickly introduced to all operational procedures, whether that was advancing a show, settling with the artists, controlling audience flow or setting up ad campaigns. Quickly she realized my competences in the Graphic Design and IT area. Early on I had played around with the computer of my parents. To this day, my family tells the story of me at the age of 4 and how I managed to crash a computer into the infamous blue screen. Well, since then I have taught myself to code in multiple front and back end languages, incl. Javascript (ReactJS & Redux), HTML/CSS, Python (Flask), and have taken Adobe Certifications in Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator. As a result, I designed concert posters, edited live music videos for Ani DiFranco and managed the venue’s Wordpress website.

Due to a restriction on my visa (as I was on a government funded scholarship) I had to leave Righteous Babe Records six months after my graduation, despite their willingness to sponsor my visa. What you should know is that I saw it as an opportunity to pursue an entrepreneurial venture of my own to bring more stability to an employment status that is fragile due to international restrictions on work permissions. My co-founded tech company operates under the name of Owl & Squirrel Studio and creates whimsical web apps that manage to communicate brand goals subtly in a mobile-friendly, i.e. fast-load environment. As we are about to finish our first project, I embark on a new journey in Canada, understanding a new way of living in between freelance career and employment. Please feel free to contact me for either, below or at sebastian.engels@fulbrightmail.org.