# **Description of experiences about the connection of the school internship (evaluation)**

# November 24, 2023

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name | Christopher Sulistiyo |
| Study | ICT |
| Student number | 4850025 |
| Internship company | Quality ICT |

**Which professional elements or methods make for a good connection?**

It includes effective communication, teamwork, mutual respect, and a positive attitude in the work environment. Professional communication is a major key while working in Quality ICT. This means clear and respectful communication is valued, leading to a positive work environment. The independence of work is also one of the new positive aspects for me while working at Quality ICT. Everyone is so independent yet so responsible for their own work. For example, they will take breaks and continue to work according to the agreed time without anyone telling them to, and they would take an additional day-off or work overtime/nightshift when it is needed to for completing a certain deadline. This for me is one of the positive attitudes that I would like to implement more and bring into my future work environment. Additionally, the use of SCRUM development methodology contributes to a good connection among team members. In SCRUM, open communication, collaboration, and adaptability are fundamental, fostering a strong connection within the team.

**Which professional elements or methods are new?**

The most significant element is the immediate immersion into a professional working IT environment. In my previous experience, I primarily worked on programming projects within a team setting, where I could rely on my peers and teachers for the subjects that I am not familiar with, or to ask for guidance and support. However, in this internship, I find myself working independently, taking on the entire process from researching and conceptualization to the realization of the software, database, and API. There was some time where I felt like I did not know enough about these fields while talking to my supervisor, which had a huge impact on my confidence. This level of autonomy has required me to handle every aspect of the project on my own, with little to no direct guidance from lecturers or supervisors at the work placement company. It is a challenging but immensely valuable experience that has pushed me to develop self-reliance and problem-solving skills, teaching me how to navigate complex development tasks without extensive external support. This newfound independence has been both intimidating and empowering, pushing me to explore my capabilities and adapt quickly to meet the demands of real-world software development.

**Which parts of your internship activities were (or perhaps still are) difficult for you?**

The challenging part is the aspect of adapting to the 8-hour workday, five days a week, and the fixed working hours from 08:30 to 17:00. After 3 years of NHL Stenden, in which the schedule is very flexible, it was initially very hard to adjust to the new work hours. NHL Stenden schedule does not require students to be at school 8 hours a day, 5 days a week, and even though some classes start as early as 08:30, this was not every day. And so, it was not hard to do daily activities, such as grocery shopping and cooking for breakfast, lunch, and dinner during the weekdays. Now I need to do preparations and planning for those activities after starting my work placement in Quality ICT.

**About which parts of your internship activities would you want to learn more in the last stage of your study programme?**

I feel like it would be beneficial to learn more about t8me management strategies to cope with the in-demands pf a full-time job so that the student can better balance between their daily activities and professional working activities such as meeting deadlines that were already set by the company. Additionally, focusing on techniques for maintaining a healthy work-life balance, especially when working long hours, could be valuable. Furthermore, the teaching of SCRUM, Waterfall, and other software lifecycle such as Kanban, etc., could enhance the student’s skills in agile development practices, making the student an asset to any future team or project.

Additionally, I also noted the importance and significance of doing a proper research and realization in the software development lifecycle during my work placement, whether it is researching about the company or a technical knowledge or realizing how the software application and the database and/or API will be implemented. Understanding how to conduct in-depth research in the realization phase and effectively translate it into practical solutions is vital in real-world software development projects. I wish that NHL Stenden would provide their IT students with more extensive training in this area to enhance their problem-solving skills and ability to contribute meaningfully to software development projects.

Furthermore, I recognize the value of diverse programming language expertise in the IT industry. In my work placement, I must work with Flutter which utilizes Dart programming language, and I took a longer time to learn this programming language properly because it is simply different from the programming language courses that NHL Stenden had provided to me so far. This experience highlighted the need for proficiency in various programming languages to adapt to different project requirements. I believe that offering a wider range of programming language classes in the university would have equipped their IT students with a more versatile skill set, enhancing their adaptability in professional settings.