

Information on the Mobility Project of the gibb Vocational School Bern in cooperation with the Gradia Vocational School in Jyväskylä (Finland)

The Mobility Project is an exchange program for students of the gibb Vocational School Bern in cooperation with our partner schools. The project is ideally and financially supported by Movetia, the national agency for mobility and exchange. Together we pursue the vision that all students should have the opportunity to participate in a mobility activity during their education.

In the area of student exchanges, the vocational schools are in close cooperation. Reciprocal visits allow us to offer our students instructive exchanges with our partner schools. On a time-shifted basis, students from the partner schools come to visit us, attend classes here and work in the local training companies.

Currently, the following professions can participate in the student exchange with our partner school Gradia:

- Automotive technicians EFZ (Federal Diploma of Vocational Education and Training)
- Automotive mechatronics technicians EFZ
- Chefs EFZ
- Specialist in Restaurant Service EFZ
- Various building professions at EFZ level

We are constantly considering further professions with existing partner schools and are expanding our partnerships with other vocational schools in Europe.

Information about the partner schools - see also: www.gibb.ch
More information about exchange and mobility: www.movetia.ch

General

- The student exchange is implemented in the context of the Erasmus+ program "Keyaction 1 / mobilities" according to the conditions and requirements of Movetia (www.movetia.ch) on behalf of SERI.
- The student exchange takes place between the gibb Vocational School Bern (www.gibb.ch) and a European partner school. Our partner schools have different training profiles. The student exchange is only possible if one of our partner schools has a similar professional profile.
- Due to the study demands, the exchange is only possible in the 3rd or 4th apprenticeship year for 4-year apprenticeships and in the 2nd or 3rd apprenticeship year for 3-year apprenticeships.
- Students usually participate in the exchange program during 3 weeks. In agreement with the training company, students should ensure that this time can be granted. There is no obligation for the training company to grant additional vacations due to the intended student exchange.
- The time of the exchange depends on various criteria, such as seasonal needs of the respective industrial sectors or regional conditions of the partner schools. Ideally, our students visit the partner schools during the teaching phases.
- A 1:1 exchange is intended, i.e. students going abroad and their training companies receive students from abroad. The training company allows foreign students to gain professional practice during their stay in Switzerland.

Personal Qualities

- Ideally, applicants for a student exchange should be of age at the time of the exchange. Exceptions are possible if the remaining requirements are highly fulfilled and with the endorsement of the legal representative.
- If the country is a non-German speaking country, students must have sufficient knowledge of English to be able to find their way independently and on their own in a foreign country and in an unfamiliar training company.
- Participation requires a very high degree of independence and personal responsibility in the organization and implementation of the trip and the stay, and thus correspondingly high self- and social competencies.
- In order to be able to participate in the mobility project, there must be no disciplinary incidents on record at the gibb Vocational School Bern.

Finance

Students participating in the exchange will be supported for travel and accommodation according to the financial support guidelines of Movetia.

- The support per student for 3 weeks amounts to a maximum of CHF 400.– for travel expenses and CHF 1600.– for the stay (depending on the location of the partner school).
- The payment terms are laid down in the practical training contract. 80% of the amount will be paid before the exchange and the remaining 20% of the support will be paid after the exchange upon submission of the final invoice. The real costs incurred must be documented with original receipts. At the end of the exchange, an overview of the incurred expenses shall be prepared.
- No additional wage replacement payments are made to students by gibb, the partner school, or Movetia.
- Insurance is in the responsibility of the participants:
 - Health insurance
 - Personal liability insurance (recommended)
 - Travel cancellation insurance

Agreements / Participation

- Students must apply for participation out of their own interest. Their application must be discussed with the training company, whose consent must be obtained and which must be willing to participate.
- The exchange is implemented in the sense of a "1:1" exchange. This means that the sending training company must also be willing to host a guest student from the partner school for a corresponding period of time (weeks, possibly longer).
- Ideally, the student's family is willing and able to host a foreign student for a period of at least 3 weeks (compensation of 25.-/day for room and board). Otherwise, it is possible to accommodate the student externally or to find a solution involving the training company.
- The students visiting our partner school Gradia in Jyväskylä are accommodated in a student residence where they live with other students.

Learning Content

- Students must be willing to independently catch up on missed study matter and to comply with the regulations that are applicable to the exchange.
- For the period of the exchange between the partners, a practical training contract and a learning agreement are concluded for the students. The quality agreements are an integral part thereof.
- The learning content and activities are defined in the Learning Agreement and are described therein individually. The technical activities and learning content are generally determined by the partner school and the curriculum it applies.
- Depending on the partner school, this may be a completely educational program or a dual exchange including attendance at the vocational school and working in a training company. This is decided on the basis of the general conditions of the partner school. In any case, the aim is to both work in a training company and attend school.
- The learning value of a 3-week exchange is mainly in the area of socio-cultural, personal and language competencies and less in professional competencies.

Communication

- Students participating in the exchange commit to report on their experiences in the socio-cultural, personal and linguistic areas (to place a blog entry, report, etc.) and to send a short weekly report to the mobility coordinator via email.
- After the exchange, a final report shall be prepared and an interview with the coordination office shall be conducted.

Application and Selection Procedure

- Interested applicants apply with the approval of their training company and will be invited to interviews, some of which are conducted in English if a stay in an English-speaking country is concerned.
- During the interview, the contracts will be signed, and co-signed by the legal guardian(s) in the case of minors. For minors, the presence of the legal guardian(s) is required at the interview.