

### Dual study course: semester abroad as a perfect complement to theory and practice

**Patrick Schuchardt, dual student at Grenzebach and Technische Hochschule Mittelhessen, seizes the opportunity to spend a semester abroad and gains valuable soft skills for his future career and working life.**

Dual study programmes are a tradition at Grenzebach in Bad Hersfeld. Patrick Schuchardt came up with something new in this context this year. He combined practice with experience abroad – an ideal basis for starting a future career. "I can well imagine working on international projects for Grenzebach after completion of my studies", says the 21-year old. During the practical phases of his studies in mechanical engineering, Patrick Schuchardt gets to know various fields of work at Grenzebach, from engineering and design to optimising production lines. Participants in dual study programmes are also given the chance to develop their own intercultural skills early on. Patrick Schuchardt was the first student at Grenzebach BSH who combined his dual studies with a term abroad and spent the fifth semester studying in Lithuania.

#### **Growing sense of responsibility during the semester abroad**

Whatever international projects may lie ahead for Patrick Schuchardt, it was clear to him that he wanted to use the semester abroad to improve his English. Having barely arrived in Lithuania, he became part of the Erasmus Student Network. As an active member he helped with the organisation of numerous events and also chaired a cultural evening for exchange students. That meant hosting an evening for some 150 students for the first time. "That job came as a surprise. I had about ten minutes to prepare for that," says Patrick Schuchardt. In the end, 350 young people from around the world chose him to be the "Most Social Erasmus" student. In addition to these enjoyable moments and events, well-honed English skills and new robotics and artificial intelligence skills learned at Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, the 21-old brought home one thing in particular: "Since my stay abroad I have become much more outgoing and self-confident. During the semester there I could gain a lot of valuable experience from which I can now also benefit in my daily work. And I am keen on continuing to discover the world."

#### **Multifaceted tasks, working together on an equal footing**

During his time in Vilnius, Patrick Schuchardt started building an international network and has since stayed in touch with students from Lithuania, India, Greece, Sweden, France and many other countries. Being able to work, in his native region of Bad Hersfeld, for a company with an international orientation and locations in other countries, including the USA, China, Brazil, India and Russia, is among the things Patrick Schuchardt particularly likes about Grenzebach. During the practical phases of the dual study programme he gets to know the company in a variety of ways, from preparing design drawings to participating in digitization projects and working on process technology assignments. In his current practical phase he is even creating a model for a ball mill for gypsum that can also be used for trials to determine the product fineness. "The daily work not only has many facets but also covers a broad technical spectrum. The joint projects quickly make people grow together into a team. The colleagues are always open and willing to answer the many questions I have. We help each other – that's a natural thing here," reports Patrick Schuchardt.

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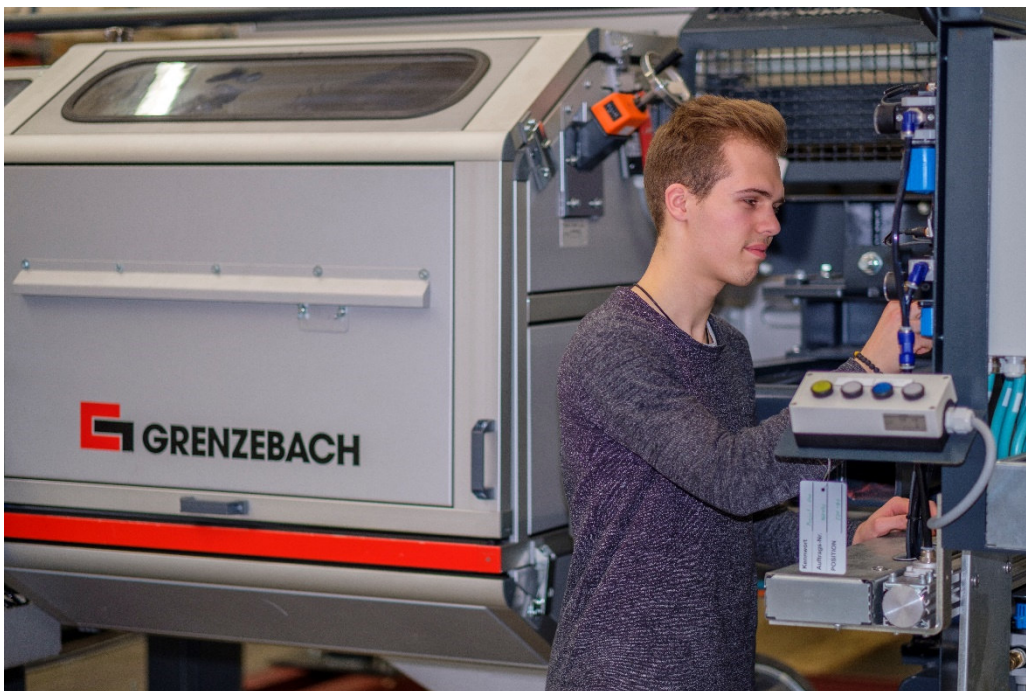
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## Press Release

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### Long-standing cooperation with Technische Hochschule Mittelhessen

Nancy Fiebig-Weisheit, head of Human Resources at Grenzebach in Bad Hersfeld, is pleased about the experience Patrick Schuchardt gained during his studies and training. "Within the context of automation and digitization in industrial environments we offer attractive assignments in various job categories – all with an international element. Our commitment to the education and training of young people is something that matters greatly to Grenzebach," says Nancy Fiebig-Weisheit. At present, 20 young women and men are apprentices and trainees at Grenzebach in Bad Hersfeld, seven of them as part of a dual study course at Technische Hochschule Mittelhessen, a university of applied sciences. These students are aiming for a Bachelor of Engineering (mechanical or electrical) or a Bachelor of Arts (logistics) degree. Grenzebach offers young people a variety of possibilities to find their personal way into their working lives. The spectrum of apprenticeship posts in Bad Hersfeld is broad as well: industrial business management assistant, product designer, equipment and plant designer, IT specialist. "Whether as part of an apprenticeship or a dual study programme, Grenzebach provides hands-on experience with innovations. Here, young people can work with and on tomorrow's technologies. And all that within an international network," emphasizes Nancy Fiebig-Weisheit. "Dual students" have been trained and educated in Bad Hersfeld since 2006, and since 2011 Grenzebach has cooperated with Technische Hochschule Mittelhessen in this field. Fiebig-Weisheit: "We very much welcome the fact that spending a semester aboard as part of a dual study course is now becoming a rule. We wish to open up attractive working environments to our dual students in an international context. Being able to integrate semesters aboard into the studies complements this approach."



*Within the context of automation and digitization Grenzebach BSH provides an attractive working environment: Patrick Schuchardt has a multifaceted working day and gets to know a board technical spectrum.  
Source: Grenzebach*

## Press Release



*As a member of the Erasmus Student Network, Patrick Schuchardt even organizes and hosts various Erasmus cultural evenings and events and develops his communication skills.  
Source: Patrick Schuchardt*



*During his semester abroad, Patrick Schuchardt could gain a lot of valuable experience. In the end 350 young people from around the world even chose him to be the "Most Social Erasmus" student.  
Source: Patrick Schuchardt*

Grenzebach is a world-wide leader specializing in the automation of industrial production lines. By providing services encompassing the entire life cycle of a project, Grenzebach's tailor-made automation solutions have a positive impact globally in glass and building material manufacturing as well as intralogistics. Many years of experience, continuous development, and sustainable support services are what makes Grenzebach one of the most preferred partners world-wide. 3000 installed lines in 55 countries prove that the Grenzebach name stands for quality and reliability. Amazingly, 90 percent of Grenzebach's products are for export which reflects that the medium sized family-owned company from Hamlar is a global player in the industrial automation.