

Resume

I am studying Economics at Hanover University in Germany. During my summer break I was looking for new practical experience, so that I decided to volunteer abroad. I choose India because I expected a good experience due to cultural differences. Finally, I found RIN on the web through a web-searching site called Idealist. After contacting RIN, all my mails were answered immediately so that we came quite soon to an agreement.

I volunteered at RIN as a Marketing Assistant from 18th August 2003 to 8th October 2003. During this time I worked mainly on Developing a Volunteer Welcome Packet, improving the Volunteer Section on the RIN website, defining Volunteer needs and creating PowerPoint's. I was also involved in a Brand Identity Re-name process.

When I started this assignment, a two months plan, which included goals and deliverables, was developed. During this process I was able to focus areas of my interest. This planning was very helpful as I had a good overview of what to do during the following weeks. Moreover, I was also sure that I would have enough to do.

I appreciated especially this structure as well as the understanding of volunteering at RIN. For RIN, a Volunteer is not somebody who is coming to RIN because he is willing to work free of costs. RIN rather only reaches out for Volunteers if there is a need and a real use of a Volunteer. In fact, I had useful deliverables that made my time at RIN to a great experience. I also had the feeling that everybody at RIN took me serious and that my working results were used.

My working colleagues were very friendly and helpful. Whenever I had a question concerning my work or in general concerning living in India, they were willing to help me immediately. We did a few activities together after work like going to the cinema and we even had a Party together.

Living in Chennai was also a very good experience for me. As Chennai is more traditional and from my point of view also more Indian than other metropolitan cities in India, it was great to get into the everyday life of this amazing city.

All in all, I really enjoyed my time with RIN and I learned a lot, so that I have the feeling that it was a very good use of time with a lot of new experience. I like to thank the whole RIN Team who made this wonderful time possible!

Chennai, 08.10.2003

Joern Boxberger