

Name
Address
E-mail
Phone

Porto, X of December of 2007

Vulcanus in Japan | 2007-2008 Program

1) I am currently studying (Designation) Engineering at the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto in the last year of my undergrad program, with specialization in Oil Refining and Petrochemistry.

My final Project was made in the Institute of Chemical Technology, Prague, in the field study of Polymers, particularly about the transport of penetrants in compact and porous polymers.

I attended English courses during seven years, French during three years, Japanese during two years and German during one year.

2) I have always been fascinated by the culture of the “Land of the Rising Sun” and as a consequence I tried to increase to this mystical world by learning the language, which is indeed complex by its dissimilarity with our own but equally by the same reason, very attractive.

This program comes as an opportunity to finally get to know the country and at the same time develop myself professionally not only through the company working experience in such a developed country as Japan but also throughout the learning of the Japanese language. Having already participated in a study abroad program (Socrates/Erasmus) in Prague, Czech Republic, I have experienced the adaptation to a different language and culture. I ought to say that discovering all the differences between Portugal and Czech Republic overwhelmed me.

3) The Japanese courses I took allowed me to become familiar with some of its many particularities; however is my belief that only the everyday contact with the language and the intensive course can make me confident enough on it. The company traineeship would be of great importance once the working abilities of Japanese are well known and admired all over the world and therefore it would be an unbelievable break of improving my skills.

Once Portugal and Japan are two completely different cultures I think I can give a different point of view and at the same time provide information about my country and its culture. This exchange of cultural information may come as an advantage to both allowing us to grow as persons. At the same time I will concentrate my efforts to do as best I can in the company while trying to learn as much as possible.

Best regards,

Signature

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I started my undergraduate program in Informatics and Computing Engineering at the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto in 2002. I am currently a finalist student. During the 5 years programme I have studied and got interest in the subjects of computer networks, artificial intelligence, software engineering and mobile computing.

I also had the opportunity to improve my proficiency in the English language. As a side effect of the activities in which I was involved, I acquired soft-skills on communication, public presentations, project management and teaching.

I was always fascinated by Japan. It was as a consumer that I first contacted with the Japanese culture. Japanese videogames, art (mainly anime), cars and technological products always had a very distinct and positive feel to them, comparing with others products from Europe and the USA.

The Vulcanus program is a golden opportunity to experience Japan in full Technicolor, and, hopefully, also contribute to the development of new and innovative products in Japan. It is also a very big challenge, which is something that attracts me. I am a passionate about my work, persistent, disciplined, sociable and goal-driven, which I believe are important assets for a program like this.

I have very good expectations concerning the Vulcanus program. In the seminar about Japan I expect to learn more about Japan's history, traditions and culture, making my integration in the country easier.

Concerning the intensive Japanese course, I understand that 4 months may not be enough to fully grasp such a complex and different language. My goal is to get to an adequate level so that I can practice and improve my skills in the next 8 months.

In the traineeship program I hope to learn about the methodologies and practices that account for Japan's achievements in the high-tech market. I believe this internship will also be very beneficial for the accommodating company. Because of my different culture and educational background I can provide a complementary view on certain aspects of product development, making the whole company more complete and efficient. Also, traditionally, the Portuguese are very good at finding fast, innovative solutions for complex and time critical problems.

Sincerely,

Signature