

Praktikumsbericht

I did the internship at a Korean film production company PINEHOUSE Film. I am interested in Korean cinema and the film industry in general so I am very glad that with prof. Shin's help I managed to get an internship at a company that I know I would enjoy working at. The internship lasted for about three months and I had to work two times a week, Wednesdays and Fridays, four hours a day. It was the perfect amount of time and hours as it gave me time to finish off the classes, have enough time to enjoy Korea as well as, of course, get valuable experience at the internship.

In terms of the work I had to do at the internship, rather than doing paperwork or other things for the company itself, the tasks I was given were made to help me learn about the film industry, write movie reviews, and get new and unique experiences. On my first day at the internship, after introducing myself to the small team, the producer Lee Joon-dong, who became my boss during those 3 months, gave lecture on the process of filmmaking – where it starts, what it includes, what should be considered, basically how an idea comes to life and becomes a movie. After that I had to listen to a video lecture that the producer once gave. Both lectures were very interesting and insightful and my first task was to write a summary for each of the lectures and submit it. Thankfully I could write everything in English. Generally, although some content that I had to work with was in Korean, I was always allowed to write in English for my convenience, which made things a lot easier and more effective. I do admit that writing in Korean probably would have helped me improve my language more, however since I watched content mostly in Korean, communicated with the people in the company in Korean and participated in events in Korean I can say that even though I did not get to practice my writing, my Korean skills have definitely improved. As the second task, I had to watch “Hwayi: A Monster Boy” (*화이: 괴물을 삼킨 아이*, dir. Jang Joon-hwan), a movie that was produced by PINEHOUSE Film, and write a review on it. I watched it at the company

and there were only Korean subtitles available, but I was glad to realise that I understood majority of the content. In terms of writing a review I had to focus on describing the plot, creating a logline, writing characterization, as well as breaking down the structure of the movie and finding the exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, catastrophe as well as defining the unique points of the movie and searching for similar movie recommendations. The next task was quite similar – I had to write the same type of review, but this time I had to choose two German movies that I would like to recommend and that had no remakes yet. However, the following task was the biggest, longest, most important and the most interesting one I have worked on so far. Lee Joondong has asked me to create a development plan “Hwayi: A Monster Boy” if it were to be released as a TV series. This meant that I not only had to come up with additional storyline, plot and characters to expand the story and make possible as TV series, but also had to consider technicalities like the structure, length and number of episodes and so on. It seemed intimidating at first and my first attempt at creating that development plan was a failure, but I did not give up and continued working on it. I learned a lot and it made me realise that our imagination indeed has no limits. I got the feedback and learned what I did good and what I could have improved, it was a valuable and interesting creative experience. And finally, as the end of the internship drew close, the last two things I had to write were my plans/wishes/hopes for what I would like to do in the future, what field I would like to work in, etc, as well as my experience and “review” of the internship itself.

One of the highlights of the internship was the opportunity to go to IP biz fair (2022 콘텐츠 IP 산업전) – an event that took place at the COEX mall. I told my manager what I am interested in and she helped me choose seminars and lectures that would fit me. I got the opportunity to observe how IP business pitch works and therefore got see people presenting their creations, and offering collaborations, and asking for investors. Moreover, I got to listen to a lecture by Pinkfong – a production company that creates content for kids – and hear all about its success with Baby Shark, past collaborations and work as well as upcoming projects and strategies. After that there was a lecture about PUBG (PlayerUnknown’s Battlegrounds) by KRAFTON and its own universe including movies and games. And lastly, I could learn about the work of d’strict – a design agency

that creates LED / media art that is plastered all over Korea and known by everyone. Their creations include the big Wave on the COEX mall building, as well as ARTE museums. I love their work so it was fascinating to hear not only about their past work, but also their plans, strategies and future projects. The whole experience at the fair taught me many interesting and valuable things and I was grateful to have had the opportunity to attend it.

Generally, the atmosphere at the office where I worked at was nice. The company does not have a lot of employees, most of the time it was me, my friend that I did the internship with, Lee Joon-dong – the producer and our boss – our manager and one other employee. Directors Bu Ji-young and Lee Chang-dong would also come from time to time. Therefore, it was pretty quiet so it was easy to focus on our work. I admit, at first it was quite scary and intimidating not only because it was my first ever internship, but also because suddenly I had to listen and communicate in Korean in an official work environment. This was quite a challenge, but having a friend nearby always gave me strength, and the people at the company were friendly and helpful towards us and made sure we understood everything. Still, it was a little awkward and scary and I was quite self-conscious. However, things got a lot better after the company dinner, which I also feared at first, but it ended up being a fun experience where I got to see my colleagues in a more relaxed atmosphere, get to know them a bit better as well as express myself and let them learn about me too. Unexpectedly, our internship ended a few weeks earlier than I thought, and so I felt sad to suddenly leave the place and people that I finally have grown quite used to. Moreover, it was so surreal to work alongside and communicate with producers and directors whose films I have watched and analysed at my university. It is an experience I will never forget.

The most exciting part of it all was visiting a filming site. A few months before that I got introduced to Lee Dong-ha – the producer of Train to Busan – as he briefly dropped by our company. He said he would take me and my friend to a filming site if there was a fitting opportunity. And some time later it came. The producer drove four interns,

including me, to Paju, where filming for the upcoming series “The Bequeathed” (선산, dir. Min Hong-nam) took place, and took good care of the entire time we were there. It was a night filming, so we were there from 5pm to around 1am and it was the most amazing experience ever. Not only did the producer helped us feel welcome, guided us around the site to make sure we saw and experienced every part of the filming process, but the rest of the crew was also very warm and welcoming. We even got to talk a bit to the director and the actors! I was amazed to see the amount of people, effort and time it takes to film short scene and the precise work and high standards that the director had for every detail. As someone who loves seeing the creative process, behind the scenes and all successes and errors that creating an art piece entails, this experience was invaluable. I always knew I wanted to work in creative industries of some sorts, and this made me realise that the film industry might be the field I would see myself.

To sum it up, this was an interesting and valuable internship that was filled with new experiences and amazing people. The tasks I did and the events I attended were always new, interesting and refreshing so it was never boring or repetitive. Before going to Korea I have many fears and uncertainties surrounding the word internship. Naturally, I wanted to do something that not only fits my interests and passions, gives me new experiences but also helps me build connections and will be somewhat valuable for my future, and I think this internship fit all of this criteria. I also got lucky that the company was offering two internship places at the time I was looking for it. Overall I would recommend the internship to someone that is interested in cinema and creative industries.