

«We feel a lot of trust, which is motivating.»



Paulus Nanguti (l.) and Richard !Khabeb in Bendern

As part of our cooperation with B360, Richard !Khabeb and Paulus Nanguti, two students from Namibia, are doing an internship in Bendern. Inhouseflash Online has met them and talked about willingness to help, punctuality, and open-mindedness.

Hi, how are you? Have you settled in well here in Liechtenstein?

Richard: Very much so. I would already call myself a "proud Liechtensteiner" (laughs).

This sounds great. You do like living here?

Richard: Absolutely. I live with a host family in Eschen. Even the fact that we had lunch together on the first day was something very special for me, something we don't have. I am also very pleased about their openness and interest. I feel like a member of the family with them. I also find the country idyll very beautiful. Of course, it is very quiet, but it is easy to get in touch with the locals. During the first few weeks, every morning I met an elderly lady at the bus stop. I greeted her politely and after a while, it was quite natural for us to have a little chat ...

Paulus: I feel similar and very comfortable here. My hosts treat me like their own son which cannot be taken for granted. They are supportive and every weekend they take me on excursions to Liechtenstein and Switzerland – we have already visited Malbun, Lucerne Lucerne and we have also gone up to the mountains in Tschappina. I enjoy a lot of these experiences and get a feeling for the country and its people.

Richard: I also feel the readiness to help that you mentioned. The first time I tried to get from Eschen to Bendern to go to work, I took the wrong bus and arrived in Vaduz instead. I was a bit

lost at first but all of a sudden an old man approached me and helped me find the right bus connection. Just like this. I finally arrived at the office with some delay later on.

Paulus: The other day, I rode my bike to work. I am generally much more active here in Liechtenstein and do a lot more sports than at home in Namibia. Riding a bike to Bendern was quite exhausting though. However, I should do it more often... Talking about sports, I have also taken up swimming and now joke around that I can swim as good as a pilchard fish.

Was it a bit of a culture shock when you arrived here in August?

Paulus: Yes, now all of a sudden, I have to sit on the toilette when needing to pee; that certainly was a shock (laughs). But all jokes aside, I did not experience a real culture shock. This is certainly down to the fact that we were welcomed very kindly and openly.

Richard: I researched about life here on the Internet, YouTube, and TV. I knew relatively well what to expect. This was important since, to be honest, I had never heard about Liechtenstein before. I first had to google it...

Paulus: Of course, we notice cultural differences but we often experience them as something positive. What I personally like very much is the importance attached here in Liechtenstein to having dinner together as a family. People take the time to talk about the day and discuss this and that, which I like a lot. This is different in Namibia. My mother usually cooks for everybody. However, everyone eats individually later on and usually in a rush.

Richard: Some people at home were a bit skeptical and afraid that we would not be received as kindly here. I never experienced anything negative in contact with the locals. This shows that you should not have prejudices before getting a first-hand impression.

How do you experience teamwork with your colleagues at LGT?

Paulus: My team is really nice – we help each other and I can always ask questions. In addition, I get a lot of trust from my superior. She is on vacation right now and has given me the responsibility for a specific area. This appreciation is a great motivation for me. I think this is the best example of the good corporate and leadership culture here at LGT.

Richard: Definitely. In Namibia asking questions is an absolute “no-go” – you would be called incompetent. However, you can only learn by questioning things, being curious, and even when making a mistake once in a while.

Paulus: Also, the opinion of the younger generation carries more weight here than in Namibia. The mutual respect between younger and older employees is considerable. People are open to each other’s opinions, regardless of hierarchical levels. This is absolutely new to me.

Richard: Sometimes even my superior and mentor becomes my student (laughs). He wants to learn a lot about our country and our culture and I enjoy giving him an understanding of the Namibian way of life. I have even taught him a few sentences in Afrikaans.



Tell me something about your work here at LGT. What do you do exactly?

Paulus: I work in Group Accounting where I assume various accounting tasks at corporate level – from recording of transactions to support in the preparation of monthly financial statements.

Richard: I work in IT support and take care of a range of different internal tasks. For example, I set up workstations and I am a troubleshooter for technical problems. Every assignment is also a chance to share experiences and information with new colleagues at the same time, which I really like. Recently, I could participate in a testing session and checked a number of notebooks for factors such as performance, power consumption, and durability. The goal is to ultimately determine what equipment LGT will be investing in in the future.

Is everything completely new to you?

Paulus: Not for me since the accounting standards that apply in Namibia also apply here. And I even work on topics here that we are currently covering at university. This allows me to directly apply the theory I am studying.

Richard: A lot of things are new to me here. Of course, I knew the basic theoretical concepts. This allowed me to consolidate and expand my practical know-how. I am actively supported and introduced to tasks that were completely new to me. This makes learning fun.

You still have a couple of weeks left here in Liechtenstein – what are you particularly looking forward to?

Paulus: To do more sightseeing! And I would like to take home as much knowledge as possible from my internship and be able to use my new skills in an exciting job back home in Namibia.

Richard: As long as I am here, I would like to experience as much as possible and find out even more about the culture. If there is still enough time left, I would like to visit some of the shooting locations of old James Bond movies. There are several in Switzerland and I am a huge fan. I would love to skydive, but unfortunately, it is quite expensive.

What kind of learnings will you be taking home?

Richard: I learned that I can get the maximum out of available resources – this know-how will accompany me from now on. What I will also be taking home is the understanding that a successful company does not require strict hierarchies as we know them in Namibia. And perhaps the most important insight: be always open to new encounters and experiences!

Paulus: I would like to be able to learn a thing or two from your time management and your punctuality. I highly appreciate it. At home, we are always late everywhere and you don't even let someone know if you are going to be late. Also, I would like to share the openness that is offered to me here with the people in Namibia. I am convinced that more open minds can take us further in many areas of life.

We would like to wish you a great rest of your time here in Liechtenstein, much success with your final presentation, and all the best for your future.