

Augsburg Apprentices Visit Inverness

As part of our Twinning programme, The City of Inverness and The Highland Council hosted twenty exchange apprentice students from Augsburg, Germany for two weeks in May this year. During this period they spent a day with The University of The Highlands and Islands (UHI) and a period of 9 days on a work exchange programme. All of the students were Administration Apprentices, working for the Augsburg and district local authorities. These authorities currently employ approximately 120 Administration apprentices and their total apprentice numbers are in the region of 300-350, a substantial commitment for an authority numbered just 6000.

The purpose of the work placements was to gain an understanding of a Scottish local authority, working practices, experience within their area of study and use of language skills. To that end Highland Council and Highlife Highland colleagues agreed to host the students in Learning and Development, Human Resources, Care & Learning, Business Support, Policy, Archive Centre and Development & Infrastructure. These placements provided rich and worthwhile environments for the students to meet visit objectives and Highland Council hosts all commented on the excellent language skills and enthusiasm demonstrated by their temporary German colleagues. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all colleagues involved with the visit for providing these placements.

Of course away from work the Augsburg team were able to visit many of our local attractions including The North Tower, The Inverness Museum, Culloden Battlefield, Nairn beach and numerous local restaurants and shops.



"A big thank you to the European Union, which funded and made the Erasmus + project possible. Another thank you to Nicola MacDonald and Catrina Grant for the invitation to Inverness College and the trip to the whisky distillery. Above all, we would like to thank the Highland Council for the internships made available, especially with Paul Whitham, who organized and accompanied the internship. Also a thank you to our employers, who have made us free for the two weeks and thus allow us this opportunity" Augsburg Student Blog.