

Rudolf Joos, 20 years old, an industrial mechanic trainee in his third year of training

How did you like your first day at Stabilus?

First, the other apprentices and I were greeted warmly by the training management, Ms. Montermann and Mr. Farkas. After a brief welcome speech and clarification of some organizational details, we had a tour of the company.

During our tour through production, I was very favorably impressed with the automated processes, since that was a first for me. They also showed us where to find other facilities, such as the company physician and the cafeteria, for some much-needed fortification. Considering the size of the company, they really familiarized us with all safety measures, such as escape routes and safety zones. The tour ended in the Stabilus Teaching Workshop, where our trainer Mr. Farkas explained the machines and workstations. After a brief break, we presented Mr. Farkas with our project from our first year. It was a truck, which we fabricated using our basic knowledge in metalworking, such as filing, drilling, bending, lathe machining and milling.

Overall, this first day was very informative and eye-opening.

You're training to become an industrial mechanic. Can you tell us something about how the training works?

The apprenticeship will take a total of 3.5 years. The first year isn't spent at the actual training company, but at the Industrial Teaching Workshop (ILW), together with apprentices from other companies. This is where we're learning manual manufacturing techniques, such as filing and cutting, as well as machine tool work, such as drilling, lathe machining and milling. We're also taught different joining techniques, such as welding and soldering. Then, starting in the second year of training, trainees will be working for Stabilus, moving through the different departments such as Machine Construction, Maintenance, Quality, etc. This is highly educational and really gets you to know the company.

You'll also have to take a number of courses, such as Pneumatics, Hydraulics, and CNC milling. The courses are great, as they complement what we're learning in vocational school, since we can actually practice what we have learned. The prepping for the intermediate and final exams is excellent; we get a lot of opportunities to practice, both in theory and hands-on.

The apprenticeship is really broad-based and a lot of fun.

What do you like most about Stabilus?

What I like most is that we are a large, successful operation and a world market leader with our products. Plus, the quality of the training is a huge consideration. That's why Stabilus has their own Teaching Workshop. And that was one of the main reasons why I decided to join Stabilus. I think it's also great that the company has a variety of products they are continually improving.

We also develop and build machines for our own production - how cool is that? All things considered, I'm very lucky to be part of this organization.

What are your career goals?

Right now, successfully completing my vocational training is my top priority. Then, I'd like to continue working for Stabilus, specialize in a certain area and then further my continuing education.

I would not rule out becoming a technician, but you never know what exactly the future will hold for you.