



## EMPLOYEE STORY | INTERVIEW WITH NICOLE

Getting the big picture – we take a look over the shoulder of a systems tester in the field of medical engineering.

Getting to know ITK through an internship...

...a great opportunity to establish contacts for tomorrow.



**Green means go: Nicole had come to ITK as already as an intern during her studies.**

Today she is working as a systems tester in the field of medical engineering and tells us in the following interview how she found the path that lead her toward medical engineering. Apart from that, Nicole also has a few tips for selecting the right field of study.



**Nicole, choosing a study program is no simple decision – how did you arrive in the medical engineering field?**

**Nicole:** I knew early on that it would be a technical study program for me, but I wasn't exactly sure at the beginning which study field was most suitable for me. For example, I was also interested in studies in electronic engineering or computer science. Exactly at that point in time, however, the new study program in medical engineering was founded and after I informed myself on the subject, mostly with specialist literature from the field, the right decision was clear to me. I was especially intrigued by the

extreme versatility of medical engineering and that one can fulfill many interests within the study field.

**So where did you hear about ITK?**

**Nicole:** As part of an informational event, ITK visited our university and introduced the company as well as the field of medical engineering. After that it was clear to me right away that I wanted to complete my six-month internship there. Luckily, it worked out.

**In six months, one can definitely gain some good insight into the various operational fields – so which tasks did you work on during your first internship?**

**Nicole:** My internship at ITK was very dynamic. Because project management had always interested me, I communicated that right from the get-go in the application and was allowed then to take on smaller tasks in this area, for example, participation in personnel deployment planning for medical engineering projects. Other than that, I was also able to get a feel for sales – one of my most exciting experiences was participating at the Medica trade

# Testing systems – in medical technology projects – with clarity

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fair, the largest medical trade fair worldwide. Furthermore, I was given the opportunity to take over some smaller activities in other projects and work on them independently.

**Soon after the internship came the beginning of your career as a systems tester. How can one get an idea of what this career is like?**

**Nicole:** What's special about my job is that I can get to know different systems from the medical engineering industry and get a complete overview of the system as a systems tester. The system testing plays an essential roll in the development of a medical product because the running of tests takes care of finding any mistakes before the product goes out on the market and, in turn, to the patients and users. It is very important that we perceive the systems which we test as impartial people. That's how discrepancies can be found that could be overseen by someone who is too deeply enmeshed in the development aspect. That's why we perceive the system as a so-called "black box". The black box helps us to identify its functions and its dependencies on other systems. As systems testers, we firstly categorize the system requirements, which are defined together with the customer at an early point in time of the project. Here, we have various system requirements: firstly, functional requirements, as well as requirements which pertain to both the quality and the safety of the product. Here the decision must be made as to what extent the requirements can be tested. After each test is defined, these tests are then run on the system to make sure that the colleagues responsible for development have correctly fulfilled all of the requirements.

**At this point, you are still relatively at the start of your career path, do you know what your goals for the next years are?**

**Nicole:** My biggest goal is to consistently improve myself and to develop myself further in order to continue delving more deeply into this topic. With each project, you gain more experience and knowledge and observe one's own learning progress.

**What constitutes the ITK spirit in your eyes?**

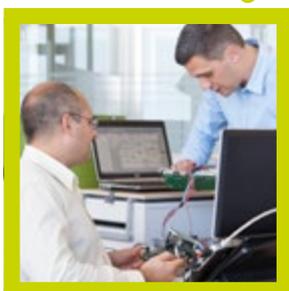
**Nicole:** On the one hand career beginners, and even our student assistants, gain responsibility from the start, enjoy the trust of the colleagues and can evolve within the framework of their project. On the other hand, they are never left alone, rather they can always rely on the support and advice from experienced colleagues. Essentially, working with others here – regardless of career experience – is of high value and everyone works together as a team on one goal.

**If you could give your 19-year-old self – or even other medical engineering freshman students – a piece of advice, what would it be?**

**Nicole:** Definitely gather practical experience! Only when you feel out an area for a couple of months can you judge whether it really would be fun for you. I would also highly recommend an internship even before beginning university studies, that way your study choice is really for sure. Other than that, I find it really important to stay on the ball and inform yourself about new study fields and topics. Very important: Always be open-minded and curious!

### Getting curious?

Get yourself practical experience in medical technology. Simply apply by email at: [student@itk-engineering.com](mailto:student@itk-engineering.com)



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