

## I'm off - Fabian in Uganda

The SparkassenZeitung reported on the exciting foreign experience of our colleague Fabian Ohl, now Corporate Customer Advisor, in Uganda. "Out of the comfort zone", say Sparkassen employees who leave their familiar surroundings for several months. Far from home, they master unfamiliar challenges and contribute valuable experiences for their tasks in Germany. I have spoken to Fabian.



"Dear banderole team,

even after a few months apart I still like to think about my time in Uganda and I still do so often. As the Junior Consultants of the other Sparkassen also confirm, you can take home an incredible amount of experiences for yourself when you swap your familiar environment for a few weeks for foreign cultures and tasks. Hopefully, we will read many more exciting reports from faraway countries in the coming years!

Best regards from the Mobile Office

Fabian Ohl"



## Extraordinary task brought internal advancement

When Fabian Ohl from Stadtparkasse Düsseldorf 2018 discovered the Sparkassenstiftung's scholarship from the intranet, the pandemic was no issue. In autumn 2019 he went to Uganda for two months, a professional premiere for the now 31-year-old.

“But I already had taken unpaid leave in 2016 to teach at a primary school in Ghana,” says Ohl. He did not have to take leave for his scholarship, he only had to pay for the local cost of living.

Fabian Ohl apparently did not only help to accredit a microfinance academy in Uganda.

The costs for accommodation in an apartment in the capital Kampala and the flights were covered by the Sparkassenstiftung. The Sparkassen employee had enough to do in East Africa. “The Sparkassenstiftung has established a microfinance academy in Kampala, the first of its kind in Uganda.” Members of credit cooperatives and microfinance institutions can attend the academy for further training, both in business administration and in their respective professional fields, such as agriculture.

The academy had to be accredited, courses had to be certified. “I have learned a lot from the many conversations with contact persons at a high level, whether in embassies, ministries or other institutions. In addition, you have to be very persistent to get basic information in the first place,” says Ohl, who moved up to departmental director after his return.

Although the stay in Uganda was not the decisive factor for this, the application had definitely brought him more into the focus of the personnel department. In addition, Karin-Brigitte Göbel, the Chairwoman of the Board of Stadtparkasse Düsseldorf, had closely monitored the project.



By Isabell Packeisen – 29. May 2020

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