Organisational Profile

Shurgard Europe is the largest developer, owner and operator of self-storage centres in Europe with 197 stores across seven European countries: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Shurgard is one of the pioneers of the self-storage concept in Europe and has worked successfully to build customer awareness and acceptance of self-storage across Europe. Shurgard’s European network caters for more than 110,000 consumers and has 929,000 square metres of net rentable storage space. Shurgard Europe is 49% owned by Public Storage (NYSE:PSA), a U.S. Real Estate Investment Trust and also the largest owner and operator of self-storage facilities in the United States. The head office is located in Groot Bijgaarden (there is a daily pick up service from and to the G-B train station).

Internship Profile

The Internal Audit Department operating from the Brussels headquarters is looking for an intern. The intern will be an integral part of the Internal Audit Team for the entire duration of the internship. During the internship, the intern will work on corporate projects surrounding IT and data analyses but also assist in operational audits at store level across Europe. The Internal Audit Department is a small yet highly regarded department within Shurgard as it has consistently been adding value to the operations and the other supporting functions within Shurgard. The small size of the Department will ensure that an intern will have a hands-on experience.

One of the main tasks of the Internal Audit department at Shurgard is the review of operational processes and controls at store level. At least half of the stores are visited annually, covering all European districts. The store audits focus on revenue, asset management and regulatory compliance. The intern would assist the Shurgard auditors during this process and gain on hands experience regarding the different processes and procedures.

The IT audit consists in an annual review of the business critical IT applications used within the Shurgard organization. Those IT applications are used throughout the Shurgard organizations in-store and at head office to manage the business on a daily basis. IT and IT controls are extremely important for a highly decentralized organization like Shurgard as it allows managing the business and operational risks at store level. The IT review will consist of in-depth risk analyses surrounding these IT applications followed by detailed testing of the different controls within these applications. The review will also cover the review and testing of the IT infrastructure and the data security. As the intern will be in integral part of the Internal Audit Department the intern will be actively participate in all phase of the IT review.

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The data analyses work is being conducted as an integral part of the further development of the Continuous Auditing process which has been put in place a year ago by the Internal Audit Department. Continuous Auditing consists in reviewing trends in data identifying deviations of process and policies set forward by management. Expectations in trending are set during a risk analyses phase and are executed using Excel as a software tool. The intern will actively participate in the risk analyses phase, the execution of the data analyses and the reporting of the findings to management.

This internship is an ideal opportunity for an intern wishing to develop a solid understanding of how a highly decentralized business is managed, controlled and organized.

In addition the intern will get the opportunity to sharpen analytical skills through the execution of the data analyses. The intern will also be able to develop competencies in writing business English as the intern will be requested to participate in the audit reports writing activity. This internship is a great first work opportunity for students wishing to start their career in realm of finance, internal/external auditing and controlling.

**Intern Profile**

The successful candidate should have the following requirements:

- students in Business, Finance or Economics preferred but not mandatory, preference goes out to a hands on, practical and entrepreneurial candidate
- good verbal and written English skills
- very analytical mind with strong eye for detail
- excellent PC skills with preferably in-depth knowledge of Microsoft Excel
- affinity with technology and IT
- ability to deliver with agreed timelines by being proactive and stress resistant
- self-motivated with good organizational skills and strong interpersonal communication skills