

Practice vs Experience

During my mobility period, I completed an internship at Grafiche Greco, a printing and graphic design company where no two days felt exactly the same. Most of our work was done in Adobe Illustrator, and it quickly became the program I knew almost by heart. My tasks focused on preparing designs for print, from editing layouts and adjusting colours to resizing artwork and making sure every file was ready for production.

One thing I learned very quickly was that clients almost always change their minds, and that's completely normal. Many projects went through several rounds of revisions, whether it meant changing colours, replacing images, redesigning layouts, or making tiny adjustments. It taught me to be patient, flexible.

Throughout the internship, I worked on all kinds of projects, including business cards, restaurant menus, stickers, magnets, banners, promotional posters, and product mock-ups. Seeing my designs printed and ready for customers was incredibly satisfying because they weren't just assignments for grades anymore, they became real products that people would actually use.

One of the highlights of the internship was stepping away from the computer and into the production area. I had the chance to work with thermal printers, colour laser printers, large-format printers, UV printers, sticker printers, laminating machines, and manual paper-cutting tables. Watching a design go from a digital file to a finished product made me appreciate just how much work happens after clicking "Save."

Of course, the mobility experience wasn't only about work. Sicily itself became part of the classroom. We explored amazing places like Mount Etna, Taormina, Noto, and Palermo. Walking through historic streets, visiting museums, churches, castles, galleries, and botanical gardens helped me understand the culture and history of Sicily in a way that no textbook ever could. Every excursion felt like discovering another piece of the island's story. By the end of the internship, I had become much faster and more confident using Adobe Illustrator. More importantly, I learned that good design isn't about showing off creativity, it's about creating something that solves a problem and matches exactly what the client wants. Sometimes the simplest solution is the best one.

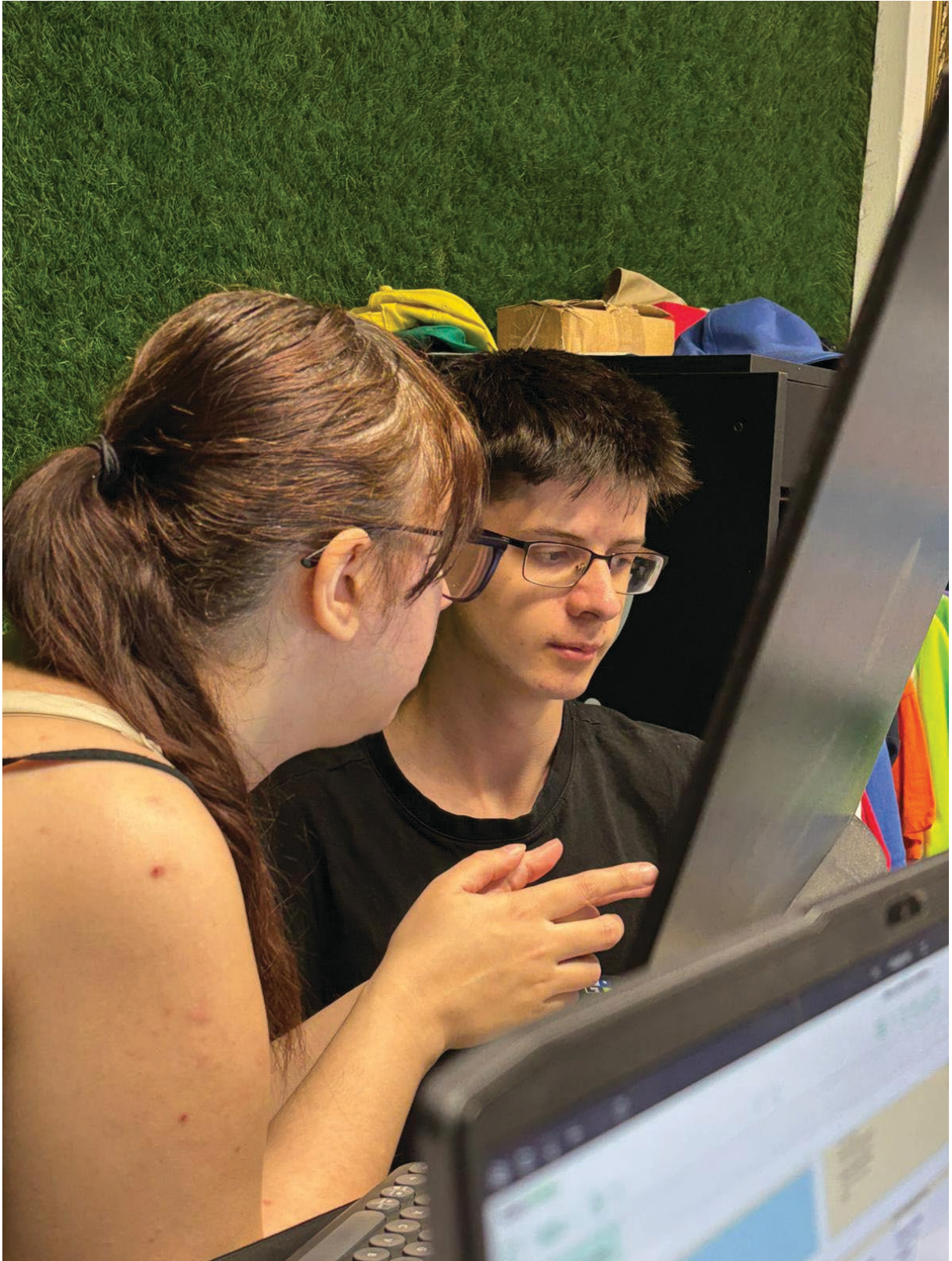
Working in a professional environment also improved my communication, teamwork, adaptability, and time management. Meeting deadlines, working with colleagues, and responding to client feedback showed me what life in the graphic design industry is really like. Receiving positive feedback from my supervisors gave me confidence that I was growing in the right direction and motivated me to keep improving. If I could change one thing, it would simply be the length of the internship. Just as I was becoming completely comfortable with the workflow, I would have loved to stay longer and take on even bigger and more challenging projects.

The accommodation also made everyday life easy. It was comfortable and close to supermarkets and local shops, so everything we needed was only a short walk away. That meant less worrying about daily necessities and more time to enjoy the experience.

Looking back, this mobility programme was much more than an internship. It was an opportunity to grow as a designer, become more independent, meet new people, experience a different culture, and gain confidence in my abilities.

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