

## **My Student Life in Chemnitz**

**by Khushbeen Kasania, Double Degree Student**

Germany is the birth place of Johannes Gutenberg, the father of modern printing. Germany carried the legacy of Johannes Gutenberg and produced various new innovations in the field of printing technology. Germany has maintained its position as world leader in the field of printing. It is home to printing giants like Heidelberg, Man Roland, KBA and many more. Since I have entered the field of printing technology, I was fascinated to pursue my higher education in Germany, and Chemnitz has proved to be the perfect destination for me. To study at TU Chemnitz: A dream came true for me. Initially, when I decided to do my Master in Chemnitz, my parents were concerned about the weather conditions because they are totally different to those in India. It was at the beginning of winter when I arrived in Chemnitz and I was scared of the cold weather conditions. But I got immediately acquainted to the weather and I enjoyed the cold winter to my own surprise. I also travelled to various other European destinations like Austria, Hungary, Italy and other German cities.

It excites me to talk about Chemnitz. My first impression about Chemnitz was that of a small city, but my initial impression was turned down very soon. I loved to live on the campus: fellow students in the neighbourhood helped me to adapt to the new living conditions. It was very easy for me to gel up with other students on the campus; I enjoyed the company of German, Asian and European students. All the basic facilities like groceries and shopping markets were directly in the neighbourhood which made my life very simple. I was able to cook my favourite Indian food since all the spices and groceries were available easily. I also tried German food in the Mensa and so, I was having a perfect combination of both Indian and German food. Me and some other students from my hostel started cooking together and it simplified my? and we enjoyed each other's company. With University at the walking distance, I still had enough time to concentrate on my studies.

Each student pays a semester contribution to get a student card from TU Chemnitz. The semester contribution includes free travelling in Chemnitz by bus and in Saxony by train and the students made the most of it. We travelled to many areas in Chemnitz and also to the nearby cities like Dresden and Leipzig in our free time and weekends. I have eagerly participated in the excursions which helped me to explore the city and nearby destinations. I have really appreciated the efforts taken by Christian Werner and Julia Werner from the International Office to arrange the excursions and to make them a big success. I loved the city of Dresden and made frequent trips, where I explored the historic areas and the newer ones across the bridge. I travelled to Görlitz, where I got the opportunity to see the neighbouring countries Czech Republic and Poland. "Saxony Switzerland" has justified its name because it is just like another Switzerland. I have made several trekking trips to

Schönau, Bastei, Königsstein, Pirna, and many other places. I also participated in river kayaking and bicycle trips.

The social life in Chemnitz is an amazing experience, too. I have regularly joined parties in the Club of Cultures (CDK), where I got a brief introduction to several various cultures during a theme night. I made new friends and deepened the bond with present friends. Although I am a vegetarian, I still enjoyed being a part of various barbeque parties, organised in front of my hostel. With the time, I got addicted to such small gatherings and enjoyed my evenings. Like almost every girl in this world, I love to go shopping. I have spent my free afternoons at various shopping centres like Galeria Kaufhaus, Roter Turm, Sachsen-Allee, or Chemnitz Centre. I have added a European flavour to my Indian dressing style.

Finally, I would like to thank TU Chemnitz for providing me such an excellent opportunity. I have enjoyed every single moment in Chemnitz and the memories of these days will be kept in my heart.