

## **Germany and Europe – My experience as Indian student**

**by Manickavasagam Rajan**

As many other students, studying abroad, especially in Germany, was a dream since my school days and during my Master's in Engineering, Manipal University made my dream possible by providing students to do the double degree programme at its cooperation university in Chemnitz University, Germany. When I arrived in Frankfurt, I still couldn't believe that it actually happened until I got into the train and walked on a road full of foreign people whom I've seen only in some of the Hollywood films.



I like Germany for its pollution-free air, clear scheduled rules and procedures and the people who were all very friendly and helpful! I also got inspired by the German education system, courses and syllabus were well-planned and punctuality was maintained throughout the year. Being a student in Germany was one of the best things in my whole life so far: there were many offers for students especially below 25 years. To study the latest technology by using the advanced equipment, available at pmTUC, made me learning the subjects much faster. Since I was “only” staying for one year, I had no desire to waste my time sitting in my room and thus, I made a lot of plans with my friends to travel around Europe. In one year, I have travelled nearly ten countries (Austria, Czech-Republic, Italy, Spain, France, the Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland, Sweden, and Norway)

and also some larger cities in Germany like Dresden, Leipzig, Gorlitz, Berlin, Düsseldorf, Essen, Nuremberg, Stuttgart and Munich.



All my travels were perfect because I could plan everything in advance by

using the internet and credit card which gave us an everlasting memory. There were no late trains or delayed flights, everything went well and finding any particular spot is very easy with the help of a city map or guide, which can be found in the cities' tourist centres. They provide exact information on the location of trains, busses, trams, or their timetables and other useful notes. My favourite destinations are Switzerland, Paris, Italy and Germany. Venice, Amsterdam, Engelberg, Paris, Salzburg, Berlin and Dresden are cities I'd like to visit again and again. I have seen many diverse people with different cultural backgrounds during my travels but the way of living and style seems similar all around Europe. In buzzing towns like Paris and Zurich you constantly meet people from around the

world on the streets. If you arrive in a new city and you'd like to eat some familiar foods, you will find a wide range of Indian and Chinese restaurants in most of the cities, for instance, the Indian *Saravana Bhavan* in Paris. Of course they are bit more expensive than McDonalds or Burger King; by going to both restaurant and takeaway, we didn't exceed our budget.

With the support of my parents, DAAD, Manipal University and Chemnitz University I got the opportunity to make this great experience and learn a lot for my further academic career.

