

Report

**Minu Karumathra, double degree Master's student at Manipal University
Exchange student at Chemnitz University of Technology, Germany, 24.09.2009-20.09.2010**

My trip to Germany started on 24th of September 2009. It was the first time I was travelling to a foreign country. It was the starting of winter in Germany. Classes were starting from October second week and I reached little early. This gave me the chance to attend the orientation program. The orientation program gave a small introduction about living in Chemnitz, procedures for the registration, and different university buildings like library, computer pools, and lecture halls. It also provides a Chemnitz city tour and a campus tour. There was also one interesting student buddy program called Patenprogramm. I registered in the buddy program and got a German friend. She helped me to get acquainted to Chemnitz quickly.



I had booked my hostel from India itself, so I didn't have troubles with my stay. The hostels are directly on the campus and lecture halls are in walk able distance. In my first academic semester I had mainly three subjects, corresponding labs for the subjects and a mini project. I additionally attended one basic German language class, which really helped me during my one-year stay. Most of the subjects were new for me, so in the beginning it was little difficult to follow. But my German classmates were really helping and also lectures were open to questions. That helped me to score good grades at the end of the semester.

During my stay in Germany I used to go out with my friends in most of the weekends. As travelling is really expensive in Europe we had most weekend trips with the weekend tickets. The transportation system in Germany is really advanced and won't take much time to reach destination. I went to Berlin, which was my first and most memorable trip during the stay. There I got a chance to see the German parliament, Jews memorandum, Berlin zoo and Brandenburg gate. During my stay I never missed a chance to have German cuisines. The German cakes are very delicious.



The winter in Chemnitz was really cold. For me it was the first time I was seeing snow and experiencing such an extreme weather. At that time I got a chance to visit Oberwiesental, a ski resort, with my friends. There we have done landscape skiing and sledding, which was big fun.

The second semester of my academic was dedicated to my Master's thesis. I have done it in the university itself under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Huebler. I am really happy that I got a chance to work in the most advanced topic in printing called printed electronics. During my thesis I got a chance to work in the chemistry lab and color lab of Chemnitz University. The labs were really rich with modern technologies and equipments. It was a great experience to be there and to work with the most advanced machines for measurements.

My stay in Germany was a year so I also got a chance to spend summer in Chemnitz. It was really great to see greenery and colorful flowers everywhere after a long winter. My VISA was a Schengen visa. That gave me a chance to travel to some other places in European countries like Prague, Stockholm and Amsterdam.



At all, this exchange program gave me a chance to work closely with lot of people from different countries and various cultural backgrounds. This has given me immense confidence in interacting and communicating effectively with people from varied backgrounds. It also helped me to improve my technical knowledge in the area of printing and media production. I really take this opportunity to thank DAAD, Chemnitz University of Technology and Manipal Institute of Technology for giving me such a wonderful opportunity.