

# **Report**

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## **The once-in-a-lifetime experience**

When I signed up for the Double Master Degree programme “Media Production and Printing and Media Technology” back in autumn 2009, I was not sure about what is waiting for me in India. Not only, that I felt warm in general with the great Idea of studying in a foreign country, also this huge and crazy country INDIA itself made me to be on fire within the second, the programme was announced by the Institute of Print and Media Technology. I deliberated no second to join the Double Degree Programme, as this country is much more fascinating for me than “typical” countries that are chosen for a semester abroad. And indeed, the experiences I made within my six-month stay in the second most populated country of the world exceeded my wildest expectations. Whether my English skills, presentation capabilities or practical skills in terms of printing - there have been many situations in everyday life in Manipal University that forced me automatically as well to improve myself as a student of the Master Course Printing and Media Technology as also to develop myself as a human being in a way it would have never been possible as a German student at a comparable timeframe in Chemnitz University of Technology. Because along studying abroad you live in a foreign country. You live in INDIA. You have to manage the hot and humid climate, handle the traffic, adapt the culture, discover the environment, get used to the (unbelievable great and spicy) food or explain poverty and all days’ social life of India for yourself. And within all this little small personal adventures you still have to pass the exams – of course with “good” results if possible. Six courses, 18 sessional exams, six final exams, two practical courses with final exams, one seminar and one mini project or lessons even on Saturday – the requirements have been high. After finally passing all exams, I can proudly say for myself from a student’s point of view that I have fulfilled the requirements of an unknown and foreign university needed for getting a Double Master Degree. In origin this was one of my goals that led me to sign up for this programme, because reaching such a goal is from my point of view a personal, unique characteristic which makes me hopeful to have better chances in getting a job after finishing my education. Admittedly, the path to achieve this personal milestone was not the easiest or shortest one, but it was definitely worth it. But one other fact makes this semester abroad unique - Getting new friends. Many of our Indian fellow students helped us a lot in having a smooth start in Manipal. There was no problem, which couldn’t be solved

with the help of these incredible friendly people. The way these students eased our “adventure” impressed me much. But my personal adventure - the combination of studying, living and travelling in India – has led me to an expedition to myself. Within the six months I discovered a lot of new sides of me which I would have never thought before: travelling alone about 8000kms across whole India by bus, train, boat, riksha, per pedes and plane, speaking unprepared in front of a group of 100 Indians while being guest at a conference of south Indian Companies with German background, playing the Indian National Game “Hockey” on the street with Indian kids, joining a voluntary training at Heidelberg Printing Academy in Chennai, jumping the Arabian Sea with people from all over the world at full moon at a beautiful beach in Goa or being interviewed by Indian television – My experiences in India are priceless. I would recommend the Double Master Degree Programme to every Bachelor Student, as well from a student point of view as from a human being point of view.

