

India Internship Report

When I received the acceptance for the internship at Manipal Institute of Technology in India, I was very grateful for obtaining this particular opportunity. Suddenly the day arrived, and I finally was able to pack my luggage and take off to India.

The flight was long and I felt really tired after arriving in Manipal. But when I left the airport and hit the road, I was wide awake immediately. I directly discovered the horn as the most important thing in Indian traffic. Everyone humps for everything and if there is nothing to hump for, you hump anyway.

The first days went by very fast, everything was new and it took some time to orientate myself. Fortunately there was Taslim – my contact I already had e-mailed with in Germany – who helped me in all situations that I was capable to settle quite fast.

One of the most confusing things was the immense paperwork which was waiting behind every office door I opened to assign for simple things like the swimming pool or the library. Everywhere photographs and signatures were demanded.

I realized that my four small photographs wouldn't be sufficient. Therefore Taslim took me to a photographer. I arrived there in my casual T-shirt, but when I looked down on my new pictures afterwards, I saw a man in a posh blue suite.

Obviously photoshop has also overtaken India.

Even if the graphic tools in India are quite similar to Germany, there are still many differences in other subjects. For sure the Indian kitchen is one of the things that could not be more different to German food. If you like spicy, I mean really spicy, then you'll love it.



new photographs



south indian meal

For me, it took some time to adjust to the high level of spiciness, but once adjusted, I was starting to enjoy the taste of my daily meals.

My eating habits settled after a few days, because I had tried everything and had found the best food places at the campus. I usually ate breakfast at the food court, had lunch at the cafeteria and in the evening I dined in the city at variable restaurants with other interns. Throughout the day I refreshed myself with tasty fresh fruits, fruit juices and delicious lassis. The extremely tasty fruit juices are the thing I miss the most when I think about India.

I also could adapt myself into my new living environment and the daily work schedule. After breakfast I spent my morning in the lab to work on my project. In my break I frequently met Taslim to drink some chai tea or coffee and have small talk. Afternoons I continued working. Furthermore, to balance my day I took an after work-

swam in the swimming pool as often as possible. Because my attempt to run had failed miserably due to the Indian heat and the high humidity, I concluded swimming would be a more comfortable way to do some sports.



international interns

Dinner was the meal I enjoyed the most, because we went out in a big group and always had a lot of fun together.

I savored it to have interesting conversations with people from all over the world with different backgrounds and cultures.

We did not only spend our dinnertimes together, we also planned trips to the most popular places in and around Karnataka for our free weekends.

The most comfortable and also most interesting and adventurous public transport in India definitely is the train. Snacks and tea are being sold, music is being played and you always find an interesting dialogue partner, because Indians are very open minded to talk with foreign people. You definitely get good value for your money. Due to the fact the train is comfortable and affordable, there were not always enough tickets available. In this case, we had to travel by bus, which was not as pleasing. Although each of us had his own sleeping cabinet, the streets in India are- especially during the time of monsoon – very bumpy and you have to stay awake to remain on your seat and not to fall down on the floor. All that weekend trips were an adventure and I never learned more about the Indian culture than while I was traveling and exploring the country. I recognized plenty of cultural differences between Germany and India.



sleeper bus

For that, I will make two remarkable examples.

In Germany every woman has her individual style off clothes, whereas in India the traditional saree still is every women colourful piece of clothing for everyday and every occasion.

It's a funny thought to imagine a German bus driver yelling the destination through the bus. In Germany the bus timetable gives structure, whereas in India you should not rely on timetables, but listen carefully to the yelling bus driver.

With all this beautiful memories I retrospectively can say that this Internship in India was a valuable experience. I'm thankful that I have gained an insight into this multicoloured country and its friendly and hospitable people. I can highly recommend it to step out of your probably sometimes drab everyday life, and step into this adventure.