

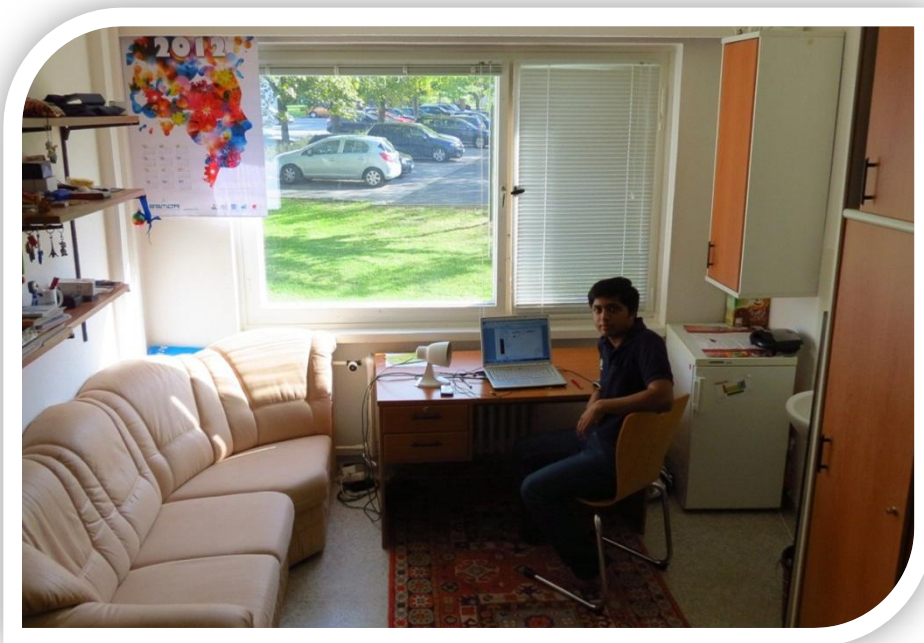
My place of stay in Germany

By Yuvaraju Vaikuntaraju

My arrival in Chemnitz was well-planned, I had taken almost all the precautionary steps so that my initial start was nice and without stress. Because I arrived at the weekend, I had to think about how to get the key for the student dorm but thanks to my student buddy Anna who fetched the room keys on my behalf. Before I arrived in a new unfamiliar town, I spoke to the postgraduates, my student buddy and friends to gather helpful information. After an amazing journey of about 18 hours from my homeland India to Chemnitz, I was very keen on this new place where I would spend the next year.

I had registered to the student hostel well in advance, thus was lucky to get a room. The 'hostel customer advisor' and caretaker had instructed me of all required steps and procedures prior to my travel arrangements. I have chosen a single room in Reichenhainer Straße 51 where most facilities of everyday life were available: a fridge, wardrobe, study desk, chair, bed, sink and shelves. And of course a powerful internet connection with 100 Mbps. My room was around 16 m² large and noise levels were low despite so many students living in one place.

The student hostel is in a fantastic location: quiet, safe, close to nearby shops and directly on the campus. Almost everything like supermarkets, restaurants, clubs, the food court and the library were in reach of a five minute walk, the university is just across the road. I am very pleased with the room and public amenities.



It is different to my student life in India where I always preferred a private apartment since they were too many restrictions in hostels degrading your comfort levels. So before I actually decided to stay at the hostel I also checked the flats at the campus but without better acquaintances and support I was unable to find one. My hostel in Chemnitz, however, was just fine since there were no rules on late night entry or anyone who would take notice of what you are doing. After one year, I can affirm that staying in hostel is quite beneficial and cheap.

Living in a hostel can be a great advantage in many ways. I got to know many other students who I used to meet in the common kitchen. It was really funny and entertaining to discuss and exchange various opinions on culture, food and living habits of people from around the world. Until I came here, cooking was not among my favorites but cooking with friends is definitely something special. Every day was a new adventure and would end up in a fantastic experience since my neighbors and friends would assist me and I liked every bit of it. After trying many different exotic dishes, I can say that I am familiar with cooking Indian, Chinese or Italian dishes. Cooking is now one of my new skills which I will take back home to my friends and parents. Despite that the hostel provides many other facilities like a gym, a party hall and table tennis for spending your leisure time.



The price for the hostel where I stayed was around 150 Euros, thus being the lowest among all. The rent covers all other additional costs such as heating, electricity, water, internet and TV connection fees. I thank all my well-wishers and coordinators who kept up their promises and helped me to have a pleasant stay.

I strongly believe that if one is involved in research captivating habitation and bound to develop both practical and theoretical knowledge one can be a mastermind. Chemnitz University is a place where you can meet brilliant researchers, exceptional research equipment and access to a number of unique raw materials providing a highly stimulating learning environment. My thanks also go to DAAD, Manipal University, Chemnitz University and my lovable parents & friends for providing me such a wonderful platform for my academic career.