

Student Feedback Report

International MSc. Mechatronics

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In this paper I have aimed to provide a comprehensive impression of my stay in Hannover so far. I am a student currently enrolled in the 2nd year of the International Double Degree MSc. program at Leibniz Universität Hannover.

I would like to start this feedback-of-stay report by extending my heartfelt gratitude to the German Academic Exchange Service for granting me a scholarship for the winter term 2015/2016. I was awarded this grant in connection to the International MSc. double degree program, the second half of which I am currently pursuing here at the Leibniz Universität Hannover (LUH).

My experience in Hannover so far has undoubtedly exceeded my expectations. I arrived here in the middle of October 2015, slightly later than the beginning of the semester and was a little concerned about how I would go about balancing my new class timetable and all the entry procedures usually expected of a first time International student. Because all processes here are so well streamlined, and partly due to my past 4 year BSc. American experience, I faced absolutely zero resistance in managing all health insurance, visa, university registration etc. related paperwork. Of course it is the dedication and support with which the International Student Office and the LUH staff in general, co-ordinates here that makes for such a seamless process possible. Two other imperative reasons why a first time foreigner like me felt so mobile and comfortably adapted/integrated, I feel are: the transport infrastructure in the city, and the Studentenwerk housing that the program organizers were able to arrange for me and my colleagues. As a side note, it is suggested that for the first 2 or so weeks that the student is here and has not yet acquired his/her semester ticket: an alternative U-Bahn pass be temporarily provided to the student. This I feel would fill in this minute and only support gap that I see in the entry procedure.

A large portion of my personal assessment of my experience here is based on the number of research and small academic work opportunities that I was hoping to find prior to my arrival. In this regard, I can easily say that it has been fantastic. I find that this city is oozing with opportunities, and this seems primarily due to the fact that academic research here is actively driven by the industry. As a consequence, not only was I able to easily approach a variety of very interesting and rather welcoming supervisors working at the various well-organized institutes here in Hannover, but I was also able to select a research work of my liking within the relatively short span of time since my arrival without feeling too much pressure.

With regards to the 5 compulsory courses I have been attending this semester, with the exception of 1 class, I find them quite structured. The contents of these classes are relevant and most importantly: although these classes are challenging, it seems the material/course-design is not meant to overload the student but rather to focus on learning, on quality rather than quantity. This I find to be the distinguishing factor between a well thought-out study curriculum and an unfruitful one.

I feel it especially necessary to appreciate the library services and environment offered by the university. The atmosphere in the library personally helps me a lot to focus. Also, the fact that I was so

easily able to acquire access to Germany's largest sciences and technology library, Technische Informationsbibliothek (TIB), is reason enough to feel inspired and motivated.

Although my interaction with the locals here has been somewhat limited, which I feel could qualify as a space for further improvement- of what little interaction there has been: I have found the people here to be very friendly, unassuming and thoughtful.

Finally, I would like to reiterate my satisfaction with my almost 3-month experience here so far. I feel positive about the near future. Receiving a scholarship has certainly played a crucial role in boosting my morale and I fully endorse such a show of trust in future students. In conclusion, I would like to express my desire to continue my stay here following the completion of my Master's studies, as either a PhD candidate or an employee in the industry. I see this as the best way, not only to put all my acquired learning to test, but also as an opportunity to contribute back to system. My humble thanks once again.