



STUDENT FEEDBACK REPORT

MSc. International Mechatronics

First Semester in St. Petersburg, Russia (Sept'2016 – Jan'2017)

Just finished my first semester in St. Petersburg State Polytech University (SPbSPU) and my overall experience here as an International Exchange student from Leibniz Universitat Hanover (LUH) has been a roller coaster ride.

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About me

Name is Harleen Singh Makhija, Indian by nationality. I completed my bachelors in Mechanical Engineering in 2015, worked for a year in a German MNC – MAN Diesel and then got admitted to the Double Degree program – MSc. International Mechatronics by LUH in winter'2016.

Program is such that you'll be spending your first year of masters in SPbSPU, Russia (which I'm currently in) and second year in LUH, Germany and will be awarded two degrees from these two universities.

Overall Experience

No questions why LUH; not only it's a German University but also a part of tu9 and why to miss an opportunity to visit two countries in two years and get awarded two degrees at the same time.

St. Petersburg is the second biggest city and also the cultural capital of Russia. Arrived here in sept'2017 and been here for four months now. City is damn beautiful, way beyond my expectations. Less English speakers though, but quite reasonable to stay in dormitory provided by the university.

Being a vegetarian, sort of tough to get food than non-Vegetarian food, but manageable in the end. Internet is cheap and of a very high speed. City is connected by metro all over so transport is cheap and easier for students. I assure you St. Petersburg won't fail to awe-stuck you.

This university (or all Russian universities might be) is somewhat different than my expectations. It has a way different education system and exam pattern. They are not as American Universities which are more organized and student focused. Difficult to understand the culture here and the language.

First semester was super awesome. The department here is Control System & Technologies, equipped with high end labs from **Festo Company**. We also have a **SAP** training center here. All subjects were interesting and new, being from Mechanical background and at the same time very tough for us (mechies). More information regarding subjects, their contents, their supervisors, living expenses and other needful things can be found on the university website which I don't need to reiterate. University Campus is awesome and is at a walkable distance from the dormitory provided; which again is clean, neat and well maintained with good cultural and social relations between each other (International Students).

If you're a prospective student reading this, I'll suggest you to come prepared with some computer language (C#, Java) basics, lot of patience, no weird and much expectations, some information about the city and Russian language greeting words.

I'm heartily thankful to DAAD who provided us with "Strategic Cooperation" scholarship between these two universities. It has eased the financial burden for international student like me considerably. You have to be accountable and very strict with the usage of scholarship money.

With the passage of time, you become quite acquainted with the Russian version of thinking, culture, behavior, morale values, your sense of responsibilities, habits and future endeavors. There's a lot to this course and has great future implementation as we enter the age - Industry 4.0. Be prepared to contribute your time to studies more than anything and you'll find a sense of satisfaction and other activities coming your way naturally and with hard earned ease.

I would like to summarize here by saying that you have to have a clear goal mindset, dedication and the right attitude and rest will be taken care of by the subjects, University, friends and the city life itself. I feel a different 'me' now, see a difference in approach to everything and more responsible than ever. I look forward to the coming semester with enthusiasm and curiosity to excel.

Hope you find yours as well.

Thank you.