



**Institute of Computer Science & Control Systems**  
Control Systems and Technologies Department

**Experience Report**

DAAD Scholarship  
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Seizing the opportunity to go abroad during my studies was something I knew I didn't want to bypass. From my perspective, the intercultural skills you can gain while studying abroad and educating yourself about different cultures are a vital experience for future success in our globalized world.

After finishing my Bachelors in Pakistan, I decided to go for Master from abroad. That was my first chance to experience living abroad and integrating myself into a new country and culture. Today, I appreciate the opportunity even more: it helped me not only improve my English skills but also evoked my interest for new countries and cultures. Cultural diversity and inter-cultural communications was one of the major reasons for choosing the international study program at Leibniz University Hannover & Polytechnic University Saint Petersburg.

During my semester abroad in Saint Petersburg, I was able to immerse myself in the culture completely and soak up as much information on its culture, which is so different from the Pakistan.

## **Accommodation**

After the arrival, University has already booked room for me. I found a nice place to stay at in Khlophina Street, not too far away from Campus but also in a more local area and still very central to everything by a scooter. The house came with cleaning services and Wi-Fi. The total cost for the house was 25000 rubles per month including all expenses.. Thus, living was very affordable when splitting the rent in four, and we all had our own bedrooms. Still, this was the high end of the market you can live way cheaper if you wish.

## **Host University & Studies and Courses**

The program offered is well organized and highly recommendable. The courses in the program are interesting and give a firsthand perspective and insights into field of Artificial Intelligence. Six Courses were offered by University in first semester.

The six courses were: Intelligent Systems, Neuro-informatics and Neuro Technologies, Methods of Optimization, Mathematical modeling & simulations, Software development technologies, History and Methodologies of Informatics and Scientific research work. The content of the courses covered a wide array of topics but kept intelligent systems as a focal point.

## **Favorite Course**

From these courses, I can say my favorite course was “Intelligent Systems”. This course focused on an introduction to different Intelligent systems and their applications. Having spent a significant time reading on this subject outside of the class, I have also decided to do my master’s thesis in this area, which was previously explained in my scholarship application’s motivation letter. The people responsible for you at the university are very nice and interested in hearing about you, where you are from and so on. For me it was especially nice, and new, how the teaching staff knew both your first and last names which made communicating more personal and easy.



Figure1: Intelligent Systems Course

## **Culture / Social life in Saint Petersburg**

Saint Petersburg, of course, looks very different from Pakistan but to only focus on the exteriors would mean sidestepping the really interesting bits: the people and the culture in Saint Petersburg. You also truly grow as a person when learning from the local customs and people.

Russian people are very friendly and even though Russia is a developing country and the people are poor, compared to the people in Western countries, they are always happy.



Figure2: City Centre



Figure3: Museum

Due to the favorable exchange rates, it is really affordable to live and study in Saint Petersburg.

The traffic flows surprisingly well in Saint Petersburg even though there is a lack of 'conventional' traffic rules.

I really do not want to scare anyone; the traffic is really not that bad. The streets are crowded but if you always stay on the right side (traffic merges from right) and you drive at your own speed, you'll be fine and won't be pressured into driving any faster than you want.

Saint Petersburg is also a really good starting point for travelling anywhere in Europe. You'll also have time to travel during your semester but most of the students go abroad after the semester has finished – there is plenty to discover in the island of Saint Petersburg too.

To sum up, I will never regret that I did a semester abroad in Polytechnic University Saint Petersburg.