

# Report about the second year of Double degree program in Leibniz Universität Hannover

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## **Introduction**

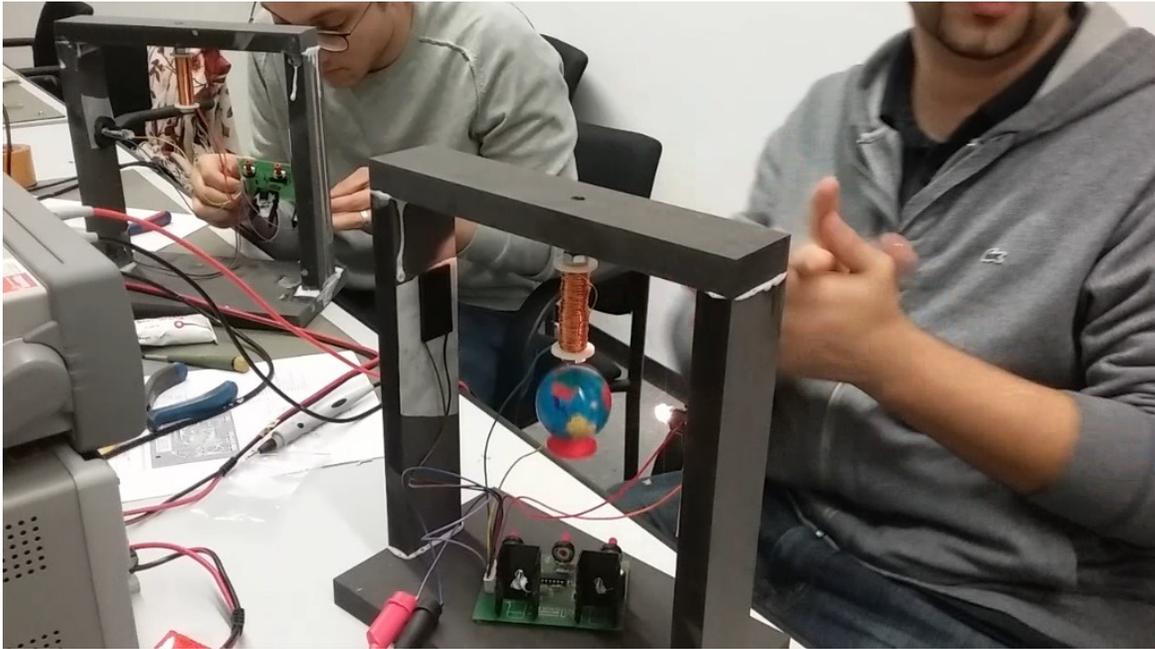
My name is Uliana. I'm a Russian student who applied for Double Degree Master Program "Intelligent systems (International Mechatronics)", which provided by cooperation between St. Petersburg State Polytechnic University and Leibniz Universität Hannover. The first year in Saint Petersburg has already passed and now the time for my abroad experience has come. I have arrived to Hannover at the 1<sup>st</sup> of September and have almost spent here a semester. The exams and the working for Master Thesis are ahead. This report concerns the second year of my program which I study currently. The report is containing the most significant parts for me which I would like to emphasize: studying process, project work, international activities and travelling.

## **Studying process**

Firstly, I was very excited and grateful that Leibniz Universität Hannover for free had arranged for the international students in my study group an intensive German language course before the semester was started. The course was so helpful for me, because that was my first time in Germany and I had never learned the German language before. The language course was a very good start to adapt to new conditions. There I have meet a lot of friends who was in the same situation as me – new country, new language, new rules. By the end of the course – in a month I got the A1 level and even could roughly communicate in German. In the end of October the winter semester has started.

The studying process for my program is divided in two parts: the first semester included the list of subjects we have to attend and a scientific research project, the second is entirely for Master thesis. We are a group of 5 students and all lectures are provided in English. To be a part of such a small group is very convenient because you feel free to ask Professor all questions you have and Professor has more opportunities to explain and to show much more information for a small group rather than for group of 30 – 100 students. So, every lecture we had our personal

printed script with all slides from the coming presentation, we had several excursions to very well equipped laboratories and cleaning rooms, have done very interesting laboratory works. For example on one of the lab, we have completely by ourselves build and soldered a construction with a ball, levitating in electromagnetic field, controlled by PID controller (Picture 1).



Picture 1 –Laboratory work. Floating Ball Test.

### **Project work**

Leibniz Universität Hannover gives a plenty opportunities for scientific research work for students. It can be both a payless work in the framework of studying process and work with even getting some salary – hiwi work, when you help PhD students with some of their projects. As for me I am working now as hiwi. It is very interesting; you can feel yourself as a real researcher. Furthermore, the University gives you an access to very serious and expensive equipment (Picture 2). When I first time have seen the laboratory, I was really shocked of the size of it – it looks like a factory! Factory of brains!



Picture 2 – Laboratory area

### **International activities**

From the first day I started to receive e-mails and invitations to the different events for international student from the International Office in the University. These are really interesting and well organized activities for the whole range of interests: Dragon Boating (Picture 3), Rally Dinner (Picture 4), Ice-Skating, Football matches, City Rally, Sport activities and many others. It is hard to imagine, from where the organizers are getting so many ideas to gather people together and make them to be friends. These events give so much intercultural experience you can hardly get in your home country.



## Travelling

Germany is situated in the heart of Europe. It is a nice chance to travel around. But as for me, I preferred to travel inside Germany and get some knowledge of the history of this amazing country, to find the differences between German North and South, East and West, to meet people all around Germany and to practice my pure but slightly progressing German. I have been to Berlin, Munich, Dresden, Giessen, Dortmund and some other cities. All of them have a very common German architecture style, but have their own unique features caused by their unique history.



## Conclusion

To say in general, I really like being and studying here. I like my accommodation in a clean and nice dormitory, I like people surrounding me, and I like the organization of studying process. I feel that the University cares of me, giving me so many opportunities to work and study, giving me a scholarship and a large choice of having rest, as travelling and entertainment events.