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Summary report on Summer School of Economics and Management of Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz University of Hannover

I have spent my summer semester at the Leibniz University of Hannover as an international student. It was almost six weeks there and everything has been absolutely wonderful.

The university was located in a beautiful city Hannover and it was very nice from German students that they meet us at the airport on the day of our arrival. During my stay in Hannover I have met a lot of people from other countries, especially from USA and of course Germany. I have seen what and how they are studying in their home countries because in Russia we have totally another system of education. However, it was a good experience. I would like to say that it is a really perfect place to study and do research. And it also never fails who desire to experience other famous cities, such as Hamburg, Berlin, Dusseldorf, Cologne, Bremen and others because they are very close to Hannover.

During my summer school I attended the following courses: International Management and Economics; the German Economy and the European Union; German Culture, Business and Language. The first two weeks I took the course German Culture, Business and Language. They were quite interesting. Within this time I have learned a lot about German culture, German Parliament, German health care system. Also it was a good experience to distinguish my home country culture and German one. Except the culture I have also been taught the German language. As I was learning German language before coming to summer school, it was also interesting for me to help other students who never learned this language before. It was also kind from our coordinators, that we have a teacher that was speaking Russian language too. Because sometimes, if something is not really clear, you can ask a question on your mother tongue.

The other course International Management and Economics provided me an interest to analyze what is going on global economics. The course was taught by four different professors. It was really good because there was not only one point of view but different. During this course we were attempting different group works, presentations with American and German students. It was really great to work with them and I enjoyed it. However, it was not only the exchange of knowledges but also the exchange with culture and experience. The focus in this course was on international management and every professor wanted to share their own experience in this segment with us. All of them were very open, warm and always ready to help us. I really like this course and find myself more and more interested in the economy and management. After this course, equities, bonds and other commonly used economic terminologies are no longer foreign for me. The knowledge that I took from this course is really helping me now.

The last course that I took was the German Economy and the European Union. To be honest, I have never been interesting in the German Economy but it was a wonderful experience and after that course I started doing some researches for my final thesis, which now is connecting with the economy of European Union, especially Germany. This course was also taught by three different professors and one of them was a professor from United States of America. The hours spent with him were really impressed because he has definitely another point of view than the

local professors. All of the professors were enthusiastic, humorous and knowledgeable. And it is said that their courses are quite popular among all the summer term courses. It helps me a lot because before attempting this course I didn't know much about the European Economy and their policy.

As the part of our studying program we also visited one of the Volkswagen factories. Hanover is the headquarters of the Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles brand, which is responsible within the Volkswagen Group for the large saloon and light commercial vehicle business worldwide. In the factory we were taken a private tour with one of the managers. During the excursion the thing that really impressed me was that they have 12,000 people employed only in one factory. Also we got knowledges about the working system of Volkswagen Group. However, after the excursion across the factory they also presented us some financial results of Volkswagen Group and their work around the world with the most profitable sectors. It was my first experience in the automobile factory, but hopefully not the last one because I was taken that tour with pleasure.

Also we have visited the Norddeutsch Landesbank the head office of which is located in Hannover. The Norddeutsche Landesbank (abbreviated NORD/LB) is a German Landesbank and one of the largest commercial banks in Germany. It is a public corporation owned by the federal states of Lower Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt. Before coming to Hannover I was wondering about one building and how I was surprised when I realized that this building is the building of NORD/LB. I was really pleased when we took a tour across this building. It became my dream to work there. When the manager realized that we are from Russia he presented us to a woman that is from Russia. We were really happy to meet her. From her we got a lot of information about the bank and system with which NORD/LB is working. Also we took part on the presentation that several managers from NORD/LD prepared for us. From this presentation we also took a lot of new and important information. It was a really great experience in banking sector and hope it will help me in my future career.

During the summer school we also took some excursions to other cities with American students. They were really successful. One of these excursions was to the capital of the Germany – Berlin organized by our coordinators of Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz University of Hannover. It was a 2 day trip across which we got a lot of information about this wonderful city and spent time with great people. I would like to thank our coordinators that always helped us if we had questions. And they also organized a warm and open reception that I really evaluated.

The experience of having my six weeks at Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz University of Hannover enables me to think further about myself, my university life and German society. I will strongly recommend this kind of program to the other students. It not only provides you the chance of experience the different culture and getting new knowledges but also let you understand the difference and work hard on it.