

# Report of Exchange Semester at Saint Petersburg Polytechnic State University

From September 2015 to January 2016,

Saint Petersburg, R. W



It is an approximately six hours' flight from Airport Hannover to Saint Petersburg, which takes around the same time of a round trip to pick up my visa, travelling from Hannover to Hamburg's Russian consulate with semester ticket. Looking through the plane window onto the amazing landscape of Russia lighted just by the first sunrise I was clearly told from the absolute beauty of wild Russia, my exchange semester was about to begin. When our plane was approaching the ground, all the

buildings and fields as well as the dream of my five months of studies in Russia were getting so close. Thinking of the coming stay in such gorgeous city Saint Petersburg that of glorious both cultural and scientific achievements, I was enormously excited and delighted.

## Warm and hospitable nation

The St. Petersburg's airport is not very busy. I got off the plane and already felt the coldness of the weather. After all the procedure of boarder passing, I've met my russian tutor, who's already waited there for an extra hour because of my flight delay. People say Russians are cold, which I could hardly agree. After saying "welcome to Russia", my tutor gave me a brief introduction of this great country and its people of hospitality. The



warmness of the inhabitants definitely meets the introduction of this land on the big screen—the traditional clothed russian girl with bread and salt welcoming the gusts from afar.

She helped me changed the money into rubbles and guided me to my dormitory. The exotic street scenery drove off all my jetlag and tiredness along the flight. If all the glamorous buildings were delicacies, I think I couldn't have ever been stopped from taking it. Cathedral

on the Nevski Street, a representation reflecting the russian imperial history, gives out the grandeur and raw beauty of St. Petersburg.

## Studies on the St. Petersburg Polytechnic State University

At the second day of my arrival I've met my coordinator at the university. I've got a welcoming package which consists of all kinds of necessary information and materials. They gave me a brief orientation and helped me with the very beginning. A study plan was made shortly after that, since then I officially started my fresh foreign studies.

According to my study plan there are around four courses and a project work. Except those there is also an extra russian language course, which consists of 12 hours a week, provided from the university. I was pleased with the russian learning, which is also a main job we do in a foreign country, don't we? There are another six exchange students in one class. Since we all have learnt russian and have basic knowledge already, the teacher of our class focuses more on grammar and spelling. Four of the classmates are Finnish-speaking and the rests are German-speaking. Usually we have a piece of grammar teaching first, and then come the related exercises, which really helped the memorizing of the new learned grammar.



As introduced above, I also have a pair of courses from mechanical engineering. In one of these classes there are seven students totally. It's literally very different from the classes in Hannover University, because at first it is a much smaller group of students. For example, if it is a course with so few students in one class, I guess this course will be most probably provided every two years in german university. After some time I've get used to this small



learning group and there is somehow more interactions between the listeners and teachers, since just less people in one class.

The teaching method here is more handwriting and less power point presentation at most cases. One of my classes is about vehicle technologies. The lecture is in russian and with my recent language knowledge it's still hard for me to understand every detail

during the time. The professor was very nice to us foreign students and really helpful to our questions too.

## “Why Russia?”

Every time I told people that I’m going to spend a semester in Russia, I got the exact same question “why Russia?” Yes, it is true that Russia is not a hot destination, when compared to



other Erasmus Programs, for students to study abroad. But thanks to the chance from international office and financial support from DAAD, it is a dream of mine that is fulfilled to go on this fascinating wonderful stay in this amazing city St. Petersburg. So back to the topic, why have I made up my mind to learn a totally different language and sit in a lecture, which is so much alien as I used to? Maybe because of the centuries long of connections and relationships between Germany and Russia; maybe because of the increasing number of russian-speaking students on our campus; and maybe because of the under construction railway from China via Moscow to Germany, which definitely brings much more close tie between the three nations. As a mechanical engineering student, I’d like

to contribute myself into it, that in the near future people travel from Germany to China by high-speed train instead of flights and goods been transported through railways between Europe and Asia instead of traditional sea transport.

## End words

It has been five months of time already since my first step onto this wonderful land. As a student who most times on the campus, I fully loved the environment and people here. In the last days my classes ended and I finished all the exams. I really appreciated the lots of help from Ms. Natalie Butych, which makes all dreams into reality. And I’d like to thank DAAD for the scholarship, which also financially helped a lot for me.

**edited on 30.01.2016, Saint Petersburg**

**Galleria** (all pictures recording study and life in St. Petersburg are photographed by the owner Rongzhen Wan during the stay in Russia)



Picture with my roommates, in our Russian university three students live in one room and each two rooms share one bathroom and toilet. Photo taken right before the flight of two of my roommates, as exchange students fly back home for Christmas. From left to right, exchange student from Stuttgart University, Leibniz Hannover University (me), University of Heilbronn, Finland and Gießen University



One of my professors from Vehicle Institute and me standing before the institute



University board with name both in Russian and English in front of the main building



Library with reading room in the main building



Product and its price in rubbles from a supermarket shelf



Platform of the nearest metro station from our student's dormitory



A campus cafeteria offering Chinese food



Before a metro station near university, people selling homemade vegetables, honey and etc.



Ground public transportation vehicle



City center with Neva River flowing through, Saint Petersburg is also named Venice of the North for its many rivers and bridges



Entrance of metro station Nevskiy prospekt, which is as Kröpcke station in Hannover



An underground metro station



A building complex at a traffic cross



Under a bus stop



Entrance of a metro station



Flower shop by the underground entrance



13.09.2016 a money changing office with the changing rate to Euro



Underground traffic



A train station in St. Petersburg



A ticket selling point



City center ground public metro and cars on the street



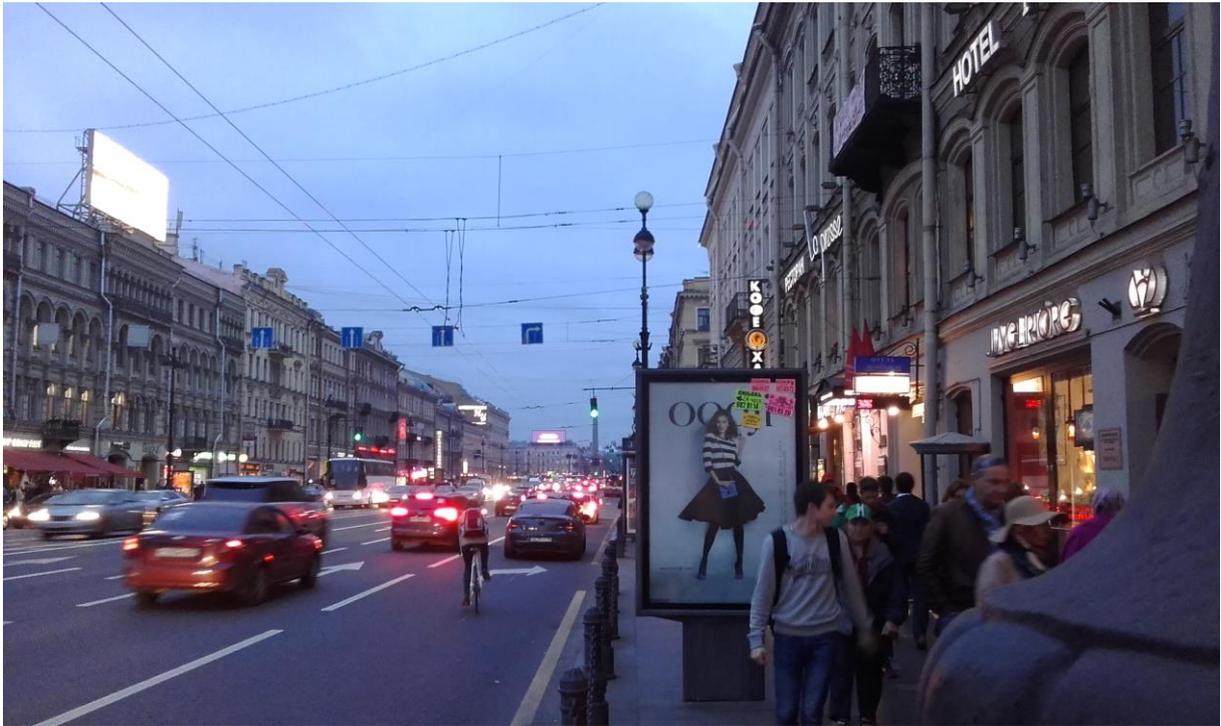
A church above other buildings in the city



Empty scene on the bridge



The Kazan church



Early night view on the Nevskiy street



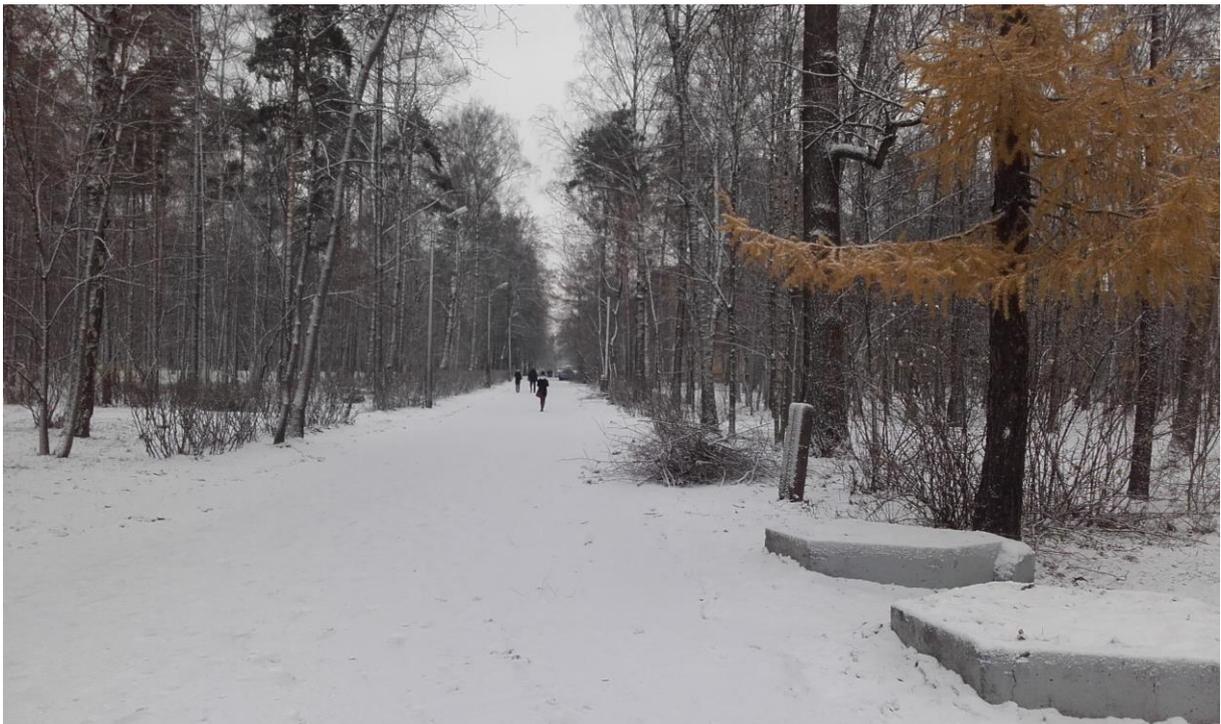
A weekend night on the bars and clubs street



In a club with purple pink lightning



Students welcoming party of Polytechnic University crowded with freshmen



25.11.2015 University Park covered with snow



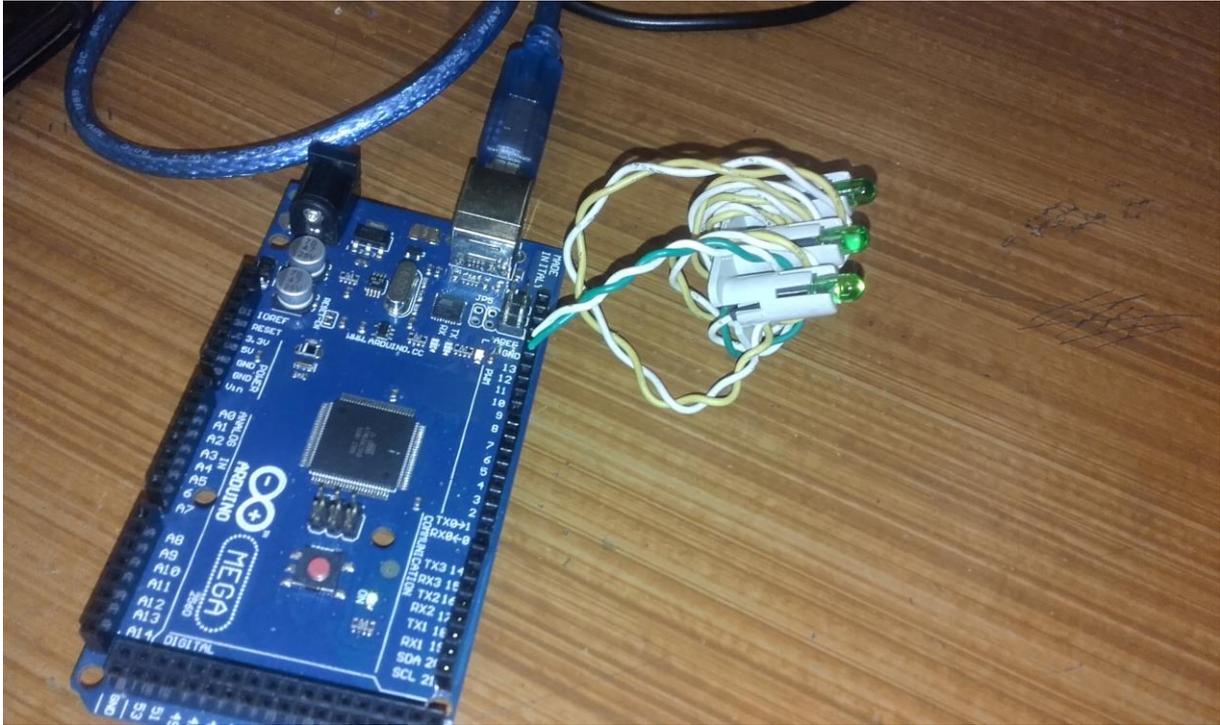
One daily night in our dormitory, a room shared together with an exchange student from University of Heilbronn, an exchange student from Georgia Technical University and myself



“Дом Книги” translated as Book House in downtown



Empty classrooms floor in the evening



A project study on a simple computer chip



A decorated tree for the 2016 New Year



Removing of the snow before main building in the university



People walking in the snow with day temperature below -10 degree Celsius



Two women greeting each other near the student dormitory near campus



Cars and trees covered with thick snow, taken on 17. January 2016



Students walk through the snow on campus