

# Student exchange programme at TU Dresden

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From 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 to 4<sup>th</sup> February, I was in Dresden, the capital city of Saxony state in Germany for a student exchange programme at TU Dresden within the Development of a Harmonised Modular Curriculum for the Smart Grid (DAMOC) project.

## Stay and Activities in Dresden

### *City Registration*

After entering in Germany, all foreigners are required to register at the city registration office in the city of stay, within the first week of arrival. Passport (with visa, if you have one) or the personal identification card and tenancy agreement or confirmation of residence from your landlord are the documents required to fulfil the registration process. Thus, after getting my tenancy contract from Studentenwerk Dresden office, I went to Dresden registration office to register myself.

In addition, it is important to notice that the city of Dresden offers a moving allowance of 150 euros to students who study in Dresden and register their principal residence in Dresden for the first time. Students concerned have to apply for this moving allowance between January and March of the year following the registration year.

### *Registration at TU Dresden*

Before starting lectures in TU Dresden, students have to pay the registration fees in order to get the student ID. The latest allows students to take for free all public transportations (bus, trams, and regional trains) through the Saxony state.

### *The programme itself*

The programme started with the meeting of DAMOC team of TU Dresden. The focus of the meeting was for them to communicate to all participants of this student exchange, the purpose and outcome of the project, as well as to know the expectation of students at the end of the programme.

During the period of the exchange programme, I visited three modules including Real Time Systems, Security and Cryptography, Electromechanical networks. Furthermore, I attended German language class in order to deal with life in Dresden (shopping, visit etc.), given the main language spoken everywhere is German.

Moreover, I participated to the research project titled: “Privacy and Security in Smart Grids: Case Study of Tanzania and South Africa”. The main objective of this project was to address challenges of data protection in Smart Grids.

### ***Excursions in Energy Companies in Dresden***

In order to understand the concept of energy optimisation, energy management, smart grids, and data protection and security; we visited two energy companies in Dresden such as the power plant DREWAG and KIWIGRID. DREWAG is a grid operator in Dresden which manages the distribution grids of electricity, gas, district heating and drinking water. This company also produces electricity from photovoltaic systems and combined heat. KIWIGRID is mainly focus on sustainable energy world while increasing energy efficiency and energy management. KIWIGRID is one of manufacturers of smart meter gateways and energy manager devices in Germany. An intelligent measuring systems and control software are also provided by this company.

### ***Cultural activities***

To be accommodated in the same student dormitory with most of foreigner students within Erasmus programme helped me to meet people from different countries and cultures. Therefore, I participated to cultural activities organised by the cultural office of the TU Dresden and buddy programme, including tram city tour, hiking in Saxon Switzerland National Park, international Christmas party and visiting Dorothen Stollen mine in Annaberg Buchholz.

### ***Traveling***

To learn more about German culture, I found it necessary to don't stay only in Dresden but to travel around and visiting different places. Therefore, I used to organise with friends on weekends, trips in other cities including Berlin, Chemnitz, Dusseldorf. I also visited other European cities such as Amsterdam in Netherland and Brussels in Belgium.

Traveling around Germany and Europe made my stay here more interesting while helping me to appreciate the advanced development in some domain of life in Europe and thinking how to participate to the development of my home country.

### ***Weather***

Considering Africa is a warm continent, with the temperature varied from 11 °C to -9°C during the period of my stay in Dresden, the weather was a big challenge for me.

### ***City deregistration***

Before leaving Germany, I had also to fulfil the deregistration process at the city of Dresden. The documents got after the deregistration is important to end up of contracts made in Germany before leaving the country

## Conclusion

In general, my stay in Dresden was really a great experience. I met lots of people from different countries and cultures, thus I learned new things from them.

The student exchange programme helped me to understand new concepts in Smart Grids domain, especially the importance of data security and privacy in Smart Grids. Finally, I would like to thank DAMOC team and my supervisor Prof RC Bansal for allowing me to be part of this experience.

