

Erasmus+ Scholarship 2015

Study Experience Report – Zaragoza, Spain

26 June 2015



Gayathri Prakash

M.Sc student – University of Oldenburg

European Masters in Renewable Energy 2014-2015

Specialisation – Grid Integration.

Study Experience Report – Zaragoza, Spain Gayathri Prakash

Studying in Europe is my dream since Childhood and this dream turned in to reality when I was accepted for the European Masters in Renewable Energy at University of Oldenburg , Germany. I prepared myself for the study in Germany and I chose this master as it provides the flexible curriculum with the two semesters in two different countries in Europe. I did my core semester in University of Oldenburg , Germany from October 2014 till January 2015. I chose Grid Integration Specialisation at University of Zaragoza , Spain as I hold my bachelors in Electrical and Electronics Engineering and this will aid me for my future career goals. We were informed about the Erasmus + scholarship for our specialisation semester . This aided many students making their life easier other European country . This encouraged us a step higher and we received the Erasmus + grant for our stay in Zaragoza , Spain in advance by January 2015. I arranged for my accommodation and travel to Zaragoza in January 2015 .

With zest and zeal , I arrived on 8th of February 2015 in Zaragoza , Spain . We started our semester the next day on 9th of February 2015 . The accommodation in Zaragoza is pretty good and myself along with one of my colleague stayed near to the Circe (Specialisation Organising team) campus and We need to just walk 5 minutes to reach the campus from the place of stay. We were totally 11 in the specialisation course from different countries united for a common cause.

The specialisation course was organised in an efficient manner and we were provided the opportunity to visit transmission system operator of Spain , the RED ELECTRICA in Madrid , Spain . We were introduced to the operation of control center in Spain , Forecasting tools employed by this company and also a special control center for Renewable Generations. We could imagine the future of ourselves involved in such major operations. We also visited distribution company named ENDESA in Zaragoza , Spain . We were introduced to the smart meter operations and smart grids in major cities in Spain. We practised various software tools like PSCAD , Digsilent , CAPE , HOMER etc which are essential for working in Industries. We visited some Photovoltaic plants , Hydro power plants near Zaragoza . The curriculum here was better with totally six modules , where we need to do one presentation , exam , assignments for each module evaluation. This made us to enjoy the course , exploring various topics , gaining and sharing the knowledge. The Facilities in the university are best with library , cafeteria , well equipped laboratory , discussion rooms . The lecturers were very friendly and supportive. As a whole , the Specilisation in University of Zaragoza is satisfactory and Well organised , which payed way to further involve in the world of Renewables.

Study Experience Report – Zaragoza, Spain Gayathri Prakash

It is essential to explore the city we live in . We visited ALJAFERIA palace , which is considered to be one of the main touristic spot in Zaragoza.We listened to the history of the place and it was a remarkable architecture. Then we visited pillar church in the city center , which is again a splendid beauty of the city. During the relaxed time , myself with my friends spend our time near the Pilar church in the downtown street. There will be some carnivals happening and its a peaceful place for relaxation.

Regarding the food , I am a vegan and It was quite difficult to find a vegetarian dish other than salad. So I depend on self cooking or If it is outside food , It will be either salad or Pizza margherita. There are some spanish sweets which are very delicious like almond sweets. We also tastes some tapas , which are quite popular in Spain.

The other cities like Barcelona , Madrid are not very far . There are several Intercity buses available which are not so expensive when booked earlier . There are some fast trains at reduced cost depends on the date of booking. Barcelona is a must visit city for its architectural beauty. The south of spain like valencia , granada are some places which can be visited in peak summer to relax in beach or sea side enjoying the Sun.

For me , the stay in Zaragoza was awesome with wonderful memories which I will cherish throughout my Lifetime . The knowledge I gained , I will put in my efforts to contribute my best in Sustainable World . I also thank the Erasmus + team for supporting the students through the scholarship.

