Personal Experience Report

Intern: Tsogmandakh Battur, Mongolia
Company: Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI), Villigen, Switzerland
Internship dates: 27.06.2019 – 30.08.2019

This was my first time in Europe. I have never lived that far from my own country all by myself. My responsibility improved living abroad. Being far from home was a very big adventure, so I gained so much experience not only at my work. For example: cooking, taking care, paying rent and buying groceries by myself. PSI let me know very wide knowledge – more than I expected. They were very kind with each other and my supervisor helped me a lot. One advantage of doing an internship abroad is that you will realize how other people work and live. In my opinion, this is the most important part to become a good employee in the future. Because you will compare your future work with the workplace where you did your internship.
My profession is software engineering, so I was developing the program which makes communication with some measuring instruments. This was my first time coding the messages between the instruments and the computer. When I looked into their old program’s code, there were four thousand lines of code. I was a bit nervous in the beginning of the internship because I have never met with that much code before, but it was way easier than I expected. I was testing and looking at the code a few days, after that I started being very familiar with it. Also, I found many solutions and developed the program successfully. I have learned that everything is not that hard than you imagine. So don’t be afraid or nervous, start being creative.

What will you miss most when back home?
I will miss my room, which was my second home, and my workmates. Because my second home taught me a lot of things, for example to live by myself and being responsible. My workmates and especially my supervisor told me a lot of things and gave me the best work experience so far.
What does IAESTE mean to you?
For me, IAESTE means the “mirror” which can tell you “who you are”, “what your ability is” and “how people live in different countries”. After seeing myself in this mirror, I started studying hard and I hope that one day my dream will come true.