

I was working at the TU Dresden in the Institute of Lightweight Engineering and Polymer Technology. As they have cooperations with the automotive and aerospace industry, the institute features some impressive facilities for the processing of lightweight materials.

Besides some small tasks I got a part of a project to work on which consisted of researching and working into the topic, creating measurement schedules, conducting the measurements together with the specialists, processing the measurement data, preparing a simulation, and conducting experiments with the real parts. I also got to

present my progress sometimes to the cooperating teams in Germany and Poland.

The work was sometimes quite challenging since the topic was also new to my supervisors. Therefore, they could not always answer my questions. However, I later found out that they use to let the interns work independently on a topic in order to learn the most. But they are always there to support the interns with whatever they need.

Most of the interns in Dresden lived at the guest house operated by the student network. It specializes in student and non-student guests from abroad which only stay for a maximum of three months. They offer different apartments like single or shared flat and the apartments are furnished and equipped with everything you need. You can even borrow a microwave oven or hairdryer without fee. The guest house is located directly next to the main university campus and only 12 minutes from the main train station and the Altstadt. However, my working place was at another campus, but thanks to the good public transport connections from the guest house, it took me only 20-30 minutes. There are also bike and e-scooter sharing services and Dresden features a lot of (often separate) bike lanes. Even though the locals say Dresden is not flat, it is very flat for swiss standards and thus great for bikes.

Around seven other interns from IAESTE and other organizations were working at that institute of the TU Dresden, plus there were some more interns who were working at other places in Dresden. Thus, I got to speak a lot of English during my stay in Dresden, even though my mother tongue just like the local language is German. We often went to bars during the week and did trips and other activities on the weekends together with the local IAESTE volunteers.



*Fig 1: view over some part of Dresden*



*Fig 2: view from the guest house*

From the beautiful Dresden, it is only two hours to Prague and Berlin. Especially Prague is definitely worth (at least) one visit. Besides that, you can also go hiking in the Saxony Switzerland, which is little more than 30 minutes away. For the locals, it is quite hilly even though the highest peak is not even 600 m over sea level, which sounds ridiculous for swiss standards. Nonetheless, it features some beautiful hiking paths with bizarre landscapes.



*Fig 4: Saxony Switzerland*



*Fig 3: typical view in Prague*