

IAESTE internship in Brno, Czech Republic

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1. Experience abroad

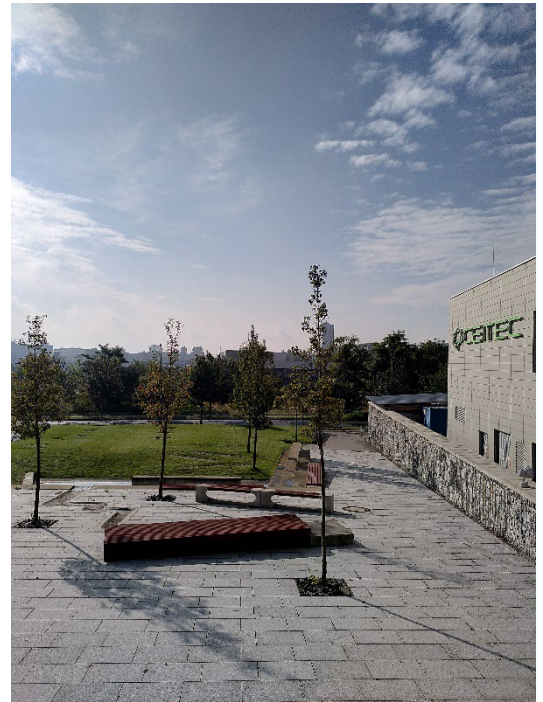
I left for Brno with almost no idea of what to expect, but ready to embrace anything I would have found. The toughest was probably the first day, mainly because of the various things that had to be sorted out on arrival. The beauty of the city, the friendliness of the people around me and the desire to get to know the entire country as much as possible then quickly made every following day a great adventure. I immediately loved the Czech Republic, both for its landscapes and its cities, and I used most of my free time during the weekends to get to know Brno and travel around the whole country.

2. Experience at work

My internship was taking place at the University of Technology in Brno, therefore the ambience of work was very similar to the one I was used to during the projects I did for my studies at ETH. I got the chance to conduct measurements with their state-of-the-art setup, and to do the analysis on my own. Even though I was already familiar with the programming tool, I had never worked with plasma before, and I was mostly curious to test whether I would be able to use the knowledge collected during my studies in a new environment. With the help of my supervisor I learned a lot about this field, like the different methods of data extraction from the generated plasma, and the incredibly wide range of applicability of this technology. In the end, it was very rewarding to see I had in fact contributed in some way to their work.

3. Cultural difference

The thing that surprised me the most about Czech Republic is the fact that I had never heard about how incredibly beautiful it is. I almost had no cultural shock, as everything was working perfectly, the cities were clean and colorful and the public transportation was reliable and allowed me to visit many places



without any problem. I loved Brno because you had everything you needed at hand, and I very quickly felt at home there. I had to adapt a bit my diet, especially when staying at the canteen, since they served much more meat than I was used to, but you could still find any sort of alternatives in the supermarkets and in most of the restaurants (and amazing desserts too). I also initially faced some irritated reactions when speaking english to some locals, as many of them did not understand it, but I had a lot of fun learning as much Czech as I could and finally being able to hold some minimal conversations.



4. IAESTE

I am extremely grateful for all the help I received by IAESTE, both from the sending and the receiving committee. They took care of every organisational step, such as finding accommodation and handling the paperwork regarding the job, allowing me to focus more on the concrete subject of my internship. They advised me during the application stage and on the smallest details once I had arrived, and it was reassuring to know there was always somebody ready to help. There were not many organized activities, as I was in Brno during the semester and not in summer, but I still got to know most of the members and had fun with them in various occasions.