

Internship in Slovakia

Report of an IAESTE internship – Summer 2024

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Work

I had the privilege of working with the Institute of Materials and Metallurgy at TUKE (Technical University of Kosice), situated in the vibrant city of Kosice, the second-largest in Slovakia, nestled in the eastern region and approximately 100 km away from the Ukraine border.

My supervisor led pioneering research into human biomarkers, exploring the nuances of the insights that can be revealed through studying human perspiration. I was tasked with designing a portable testing kit, requiring selection of electrical components, precise material cutting, and strategic component placement.

The timing of my internship, coinciding with the summer holidays, presented logistical challenges because of the reduced presence of university staff, which prolonged the time required for organizational tasks and orders. During this period, I frequently worked independently in my office.

Additionally, my supervisor's frequent attendance at international conferences compounded the autonomous nature of my work, leaving me to hold the fort in the office. This time of self-sufficiency boosted not only my self-reliance but also highlighted my ability to make knowledgeable choices. This also gave me the chance to take some days off and make a short trip across Poland.

Once I had to cut an aluminium sheet to precise dimensions. To achieve this, I enlisted the help of an experienced individual who operated a milling machine. Despite being astounded by the age of the machines, they performed faultlessly, emphasizing the eternal precision of craftsmanship.

In the beginning I faced difficulties in managing administrative affairs, specifically in relation to my lodging. Despite numerous phone calls, I struggled to secure a spot in the university hostel. Fortunately, a visit to the office with my supervisor produced a sudden turnaround, and I was presented with a comfortable abode.

Our group of interns, made up of individuals from four different nations, cultivated an atmosphere of diverse viewpoints and captivating exchanges, particularly at our regular meetups in a nearby pub. These dialogues offered valuable perspectives into the important nuances of culture that shape opinions on contentious issues.



me working on the portable testing kit

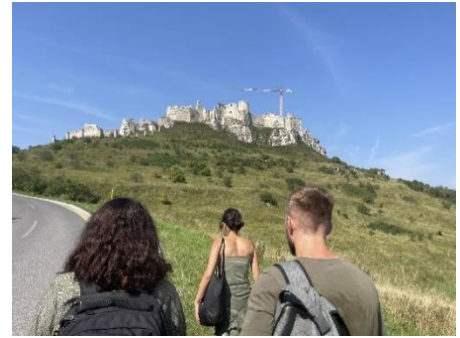


looks like Amsterdam, but it's Gdańsk PL



we did some hiking in the Tatra mountains

Moreover, evenings and weekends were replete with an array of events, ensuring that I never experienced loneliness. From enjoying Czech beer outings to hiking in the picturesque Tatra Mountains and exploring medieval castles, these communal activities enhanced the social aspect of my internship, cultivating a sense of camaraderie within our multinational team.



we visited one of the most popular castles in Slovakia



my office was located at a start-up hub, built by the university