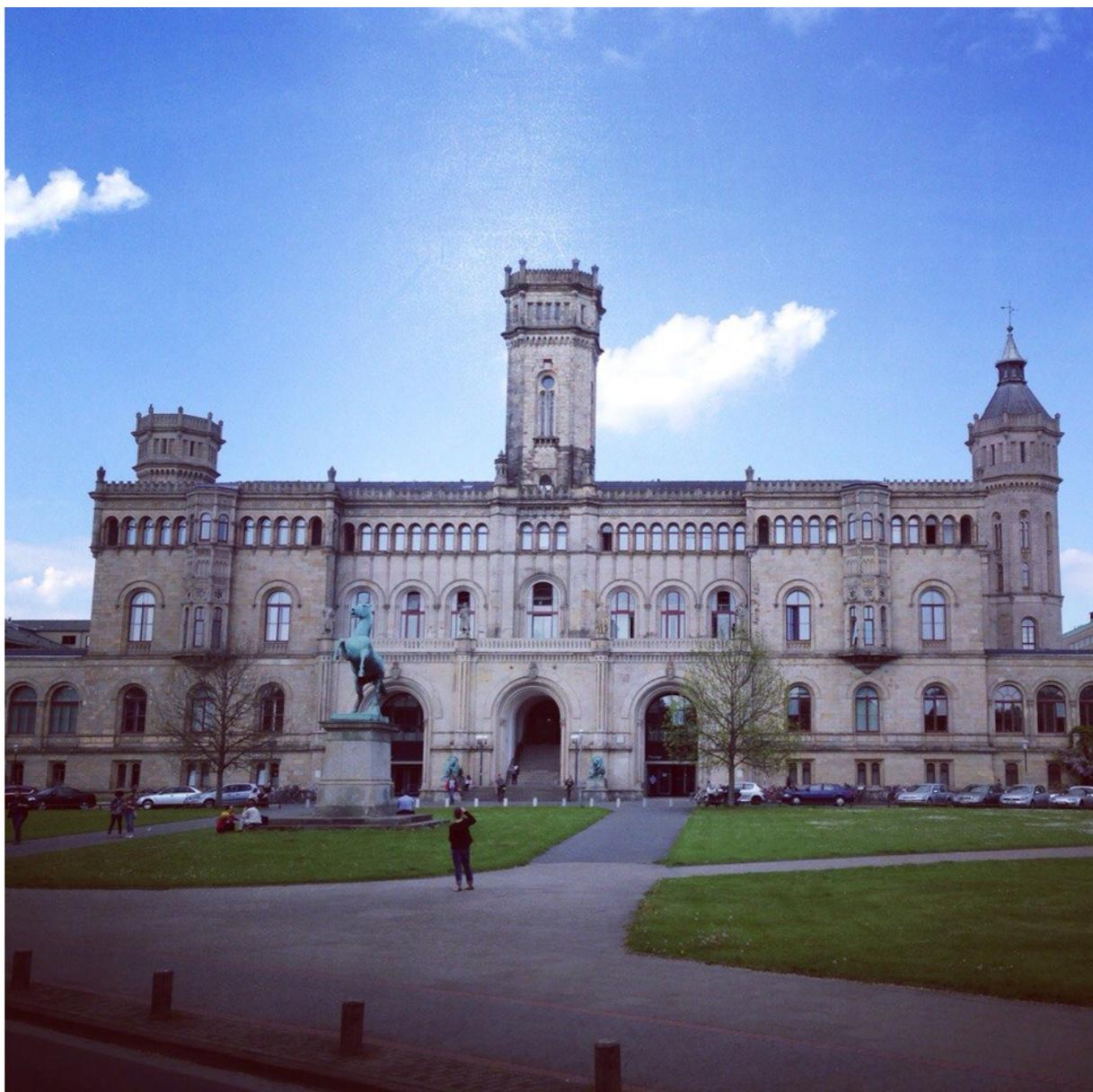


Exchange semester SoSe14 at Leibniz Universität Hannover



I am very grateful to the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Universität Hannover and the St.Petersburg Polytechnic University for giving me the opportunity to study for a SoSe14 at the Faculty of Economics .

I enjoyed during these 4 months, it was not so easy because the first time I had lived for so long in a foreign country. But I coped and got a great life experience. Once again I want to thank the organizers of this program is.

I liked Hannover. It combines a quiet life and a huge amount of entertainment and all kinds of comforts of a large highest European cities. I'd liked to walk along the Maschsee and around Kropcke. The whole of Germany has made an enormous impression on me. I was able to somewhat understand their culture and habits. Of course, some customs still remain a mystery to me, but it's a good thing, this is the reason to go back to Germany again. Before coming, I tried to find as much information about Hannover to feel comfortable.



I think it would be good if the decision on the selection of candidates for participation in the program was made early in the fall. Then it would be time enough to prospective student could take care of the selection of subjects, accommodation, visa and other necessary documents. I learned about the approval of my candidacy only in December 2013 and has had time to register on the site Leibniz Universität at the last moment.

I would like to talk a little bit about the difficulties that I faced. Fill out an application on the international semester at the Leibniz Universität I also fill out an application at the dormitory.

Choosing liked the dormitory I sent a request. A few weeks later I received a letter that I will live in a dormitory Südstädter Hof. I was a bit surprised by granting option

because it was not in my application. But other options I was not offered and I had to agree.

Arriving in Hannover on March 29, I was placed in the hostel near University as my dormitory was booked for me on April 1. My early arrival was due to the fact that I wanted to deal with a scholarship, to explore university campus, to move into a dormitory already know where it is and what sort of rules. Determined to find the location of my dormitory, I decided to walk, but the walk was very long, because it was on the other side of town, not within walking distance. Faced administrator, Mr. Thiele, who was a nice elderly man, I'm asked to register in advance to the 1st of April to avoid these formalities and immediately move into his room. He was very surprised that I came because of the international office he received a letter stating that I would live here only from the 1st of May, and now has no free rooms for me. Showing out my letter from the International Office, he carefully read it several times to make sure we understand each other correctly. He was clearly angered by this error but I'm grateful to him for the fact that despite this situation, he found a way out that was not very profitable for him. Mr. Thiele offered me a room in a separate house, where he lives only 3 per person, for the same cost as the main dormitory, but only for a month, until my future room is not available. I had to agree, because I will not have another accommodation from the 1st of April. On April 29 I moved to a room in the main part of the dormitory, it was a large bright room with everything needed. Therefore, the problems with the placement I have no more.

The downside of this dormitory was not the location, and the fact that there were almost no students from my University. I was little insulting when after the meetings in the International office, most of the guys was directed at one or two dormitories, discussing household questions, and I had to go back alone. Perhaps this fact influenced my relationship with other international students because I was not able to become close friends. Only girls from India who also lived in a dormitory on the edge of town, I was able to talk and then only because they have studied with me on the faculty.

Filling out the documents on the website prof. Leibniz, I filled out an application for a study-buddy. This program, involving German students, they help international students with adaptation in the new country, to tell about some features of stay and behavior in Germany, help them with study as study-buddy are of the same faculties, as visiting students.

My study-buddy kindly offered to meet me at the airport in Hannover, but I refused because I came early in the morning and I did not want to raise her so early. On this our communication with her was ended. She did not ask how was my flight, not offered to help with the placement and in the first days at the university. I guess I'm also a little guilty because I could write to her and offer to meet. But then why the program "stud buddy"? Why forms for participation in the program where it is asked about hobbies and interests of foreign students? Nobody much no one is interested, no aid has not. Though I can not really understand the purpose of the program.

A little more about social life. International Department arranged a meeting every week, guided tours. I tried as much as possible to participate in these activities in order to become better acquainted with the international students. There I met a students from Russia, one of them became my friend and we tried to support each other in difficult situations. Together with her, we went to Berlin, Paris, rolling on the city of Lower Saxony.



Now about education. Living in Russia, I had to choose 6 subjects to study in Germany. I was a little disappointed that it was only 2 objects of marketing in English language, so I had to choose another 4 subject for study. What it was my disappointment when I arrived in Hannover to learn that half of the claimed subject matter I will not, because a professor had not come, or canceled classes and I need to immediately replace the 3 subjects, including one about marketing. It turned out that 3 of the 6 will be the subject of a block course at the end of May, two subjects were seminars at which we have to write a term paper, and no permanent lessons, it turned out that the occupation, which is visited every week, I had only one. So I enrolled in German courses A1 level, which were also 2 times a week. It turns out that only 3 hours a week I spent directly in the classroom. The remaining time was dedicated to independent learning. Library at the University has been wonderful, it is a library of

dreams every Russian student. Large spacious rooms, Internet access, a large number of outlets, the ability to print and scan any book or document. This is where I spent my time, if I do not walk around the city or traveling across the country.

The big problem I encountered in social life, and in the study it was lack of knowledge of the German language. Yes, subjects were in English, but as soon as the lecture ended, the teacher switched to German and comment in their own language, each time I had to ask German students to translate, because I was afraid to miss something important. Each time it was just conversations, but I felt uncomfortable by the fact that I can miss something.

Summing up, I can say that in spite of all the difficulties that I encountered while studying in Hannover, I had a lot of fun, I met new people, improved their knowledge of English, I started to learn German, become more independent. I can not say that I would like to continue their studies particularly in Germany, but due to this international experience I can thoroughly determine the possibility of further education abroad. And one more time, I am very grateful to the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Universität Hannover and the St.Petersburg Polytechnic University for giving me this opportunity.

