

# Erasmus+ Mobility Program Report at Bialystok University of Technology, Poland

Sending Institution: Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology, Vietnam.

Faculty at Receiving Institution: Faculty of Mechanical Engineering

## 1. Poland, Bialystok.

Poland is an inexplicably beautiful country, in particular the cliffs, sandy beaches and dune systems in the East and the mountains and lakes – “Stawy dojlidzkie” in the West are worth visiting. The climate is very pleasant in winter as well as in summer. Located in the Białystok Uplands of the Podlaskie Plain on the banks of the Biała River, Białystok ranks second in terms of population density, eleventh in population, and thirteenth in area, of the cities of Poland. It has historically attracted migrants from elsewhere in Poland and beyond, particularly from Central and Eastern Europe. This is facilitated by the fact that the nearby border with Belarus is also the eastern border of the European Union, as well as the Schengen Area. The city and its adjacent municipalities constitute Metropolitan Białystok. The city has a Warm Summer Continental climate, characterized by warm summers and long frosty winters. Forests are an important part of Białystok's character, and occupy around 1,756 ha which places it as the fifth most forested city in Poland.

Bialystok love football over all, but it seems the most they love are the pubs. People get very drunk at weekends and as a result the city can be experienced as quite rough – slightly violent and aggressive. That probably sounds exaggerated, but I have never experienced this sort of special street night life in any towns. So I think it is worth mentioning. And last but not least, in case you love fast food, you should apply for Bialystok, you absolutely will not be disappointed by the wide range of fast food chains and fish and chips restaurants.

## **2. Accommodation**

Student Residence Halls provide reasonably priced and good standard accommodation for over 2000 students. Rooms are rented not only by Polish but also foreign students from Belarus, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, France, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, Bulgaria and Great Britain, Vietnam, Bhutan among other countries. Student Residence Halls is within few minutes' walk to the main students' facilities and to the city centre. The standard accommodation offers single or double rooms including bathrooms. Each floor has its own kitchen, laundry and drying room. All residents have cable access to Internet.

## **3. Bialystok University of Technology**

The Bialystok University of Technology situated in the ancient part of the city called "Old Bialystok" which is in 45 minutes walking distance of the city centre. The buildings and streets have a medieval look. Buildings are signed perfectly, thus orientation is very easy. Staff are very helpful and used to deal with international students. The opening hours of the library are remarkably user-friendly from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. even including weekends. There are a large number of computers in several computer rooms available 24 hours a day. In addition, the help-desk for computer support is very helpful and efficient. The Campus also consists of attached sport facilities like fitness suite and tennis courts. All in all, it is really a nice place for studying.

## **4. Arrival, Enrolment and Welcome Events**

Enrolment was simple and took less than ten minutes, everything seemed to be prepared and well organised. It took me one week to get my Student ID Card and full access to all facilities. I experienced it as quite stressful to be without guidance at the beginning. But staff were very supportive and took time. I only had to learn not to be too shy to ask staff and students for help.

## **5. Academic**

Course coordinators and lecturers are very helpful, in general. I got the impression, that they are really concerned about group dynamics and individual student matters. Course Coordinators tried to get in touch with all of the students, they invited us to come to their

office and then they really took time for us. Maybe it is not the rule in all departments and we just had good luck, but in my case it was an extraordinary good experience.

## **6. Conclusion**

It was simply fantastic, absolutely brilliant. I met many different people from different cultures and made friends all over the world. At university I took the chance to work on my essay writing skills, which I considered as very important for further studying in Poland. I experienced in the courses how differently Tribology can be defined and how differently attitudes towards these topics can be in Europe. I found it the most challenging to reflect and discuss about these differences. I managed to improve my English a little at least. I still make many mistakes but now I don't care. I think, that's the biggest progress, I actually made.