



Hi, can you hear me?



IAESTE

2020/21
ANNUAL
REVIEW



Marcus Orlovsky was our keynote speaker and guest during the IAESTE Annual Conference 2020 in Tatranska Lomnica, Slovakia. His inspiring speech set the tone for the whole conference.



The International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience

IAESTE is an independent non-governmental organisation (NGO), with 87 Members and Co-operating Institutions in operational relations with UNESCO. The IAESTE name and logo are the registered properties of IAESTE, the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience.

Founded in 1948 on the initiative of James Newby (1893–1978). Established in 2005 as a registered, non-profit making Association.

Published by IAESTE A.s.b.l. 2020. All rights reserved.

Edited by: Olga Legacka, Bruce Wicks
 Layout and Design: Justyna Kiljan-Walczak
 Proof Reading: Bruce Wicks, Olga Legacka

IAESTE A.s.b.l. is very grateful to all IAESTE photographers for sharing pictures for this publication.

Research and Development Icon by dDara from the Noun Project
 Office Icon by Maria Kisilitsina from the Noun Project
 Workers Icon by Kakota from the Noun Project
 Biology Icon by Turkklub from the Noun Project
 Hard Hat Icon by Mello from the Noun Project
 Biotechnology Icon by Surangkana Jomjunyong from the Noun Project
 Tree Icon by Eric Bird from the Noun Project
 Skills & Online icons by Eucalypt from the Noun Project
 CSR icon by Becris from the Noun Project
 Engineering icon by Nithinan Tatak from the Noun Project
 Team icon by Symbolon from the Noun Project
 Business Development Icon by Tuong Tam from the Noun Project

Distributed for circulation to all Members and Co-operating Institutions. Copies are available from IAESTE National Secretariats in Member countries, from IAESTE Co-operating Institutions or from the IAESTE Board: board@iaeste.org
 iaeste.org



Welcome from the President & Head of Operations	2
We are IAESTE	4
IAESTE Exchange in Numbers	6
IAESTE Worldwide	8
IAESTE Anniversaries	10

IAESTE International

Thank You to Prof. Bernard Baeyens	12
James Newby Medal	13
The IAESTE Annual Conference	14
IAESTE JUMP 2019	17
The WHY of IAESTE Remote Internships	18

AFRICA

Atiade Solar Systems. A progressive decade with IAESTE	21
CARPE DIEM – My Tanzanian Experience	22
Improving through IAESTE	24

AMERICAS

Remote Contemporary Medical Research	27
IAESTE Interns Leading in Innovation	29
5 Years of IAESTE at Queen's	31
My Experience with IAESTE Japan	32
IAESTE: A real life-changing experience	34

ASIA PACIFIC

An Australian Adventure	38
The Asia-Pacific IAESTE Forum	39
Conquering the virtual world with IAESTE	40
Experiencing Iranian hospitality	42
Experience India with IAESTE	44
Oman, you beauty!	46
Working in the greatest innovative machine shops and laboratories	48
My memorable internship in Jordan	50
Connecting the world with IAESTE	51
Alumnus about IAESTE internship in the Philippines	52

EUROPE

Internship at Rosim As, Norway 2020	55
Remote Internships 2020	57
Remote workshop, real experience	59
Once Upon a Time in IAESTE	60
Erasmus+ Application with IAESTE Tunisia and IAESTE Iceland	62
Restructuring the committee	63
Many "first-times" for a lifetime: Practical work experience, snow and hiking	64
Not Just Pretty Packaging	66
Civil Engineering Endeavours	70
The IAESTE committee of Stockholm Sweden, year 1987	72
IAESTE Friendship to Last for over 40 Years	74
Unforgettable Experiences	76
An IAESTE Trip to Franco's Spain, 1960	77

IAESTE Organisation

Who is Who: IAESTE Organisation	82
IAESTE Exchange Why & How	84
Career Partners	86

Dear Friends,

2020 will be remembered by the whole world as the year when nothing in our old routines, life experience or planning for the future had any foundation in experiences from the past.

The Coronavirus, since its spread over the globe, is not only dominating news and social media, but has had a direct impact on our daily lives and has become the main topic in any conversation.

The global IAESTE family was initially hit by the same impact as other organisations that are highly dependent on the mobility of people. Retrospectively, I can say that because of the developments we have made in the past years, for some of the limitations the pandemic brought, answers and solutions were able to be found faster than we might have expected initially.

Anyone working for IAESTE will remember the year 2020 as the one where we were unable to send the usual number of interns, especially over the summer period and meant a very small exchange, compared to the past years. But what I would like to share, with a certain pride, to anyone outside of IAESTE, is the number of almost 700 successful exchanges. In the year of the pandemic, this is a fantastic achievement and everyone might wonder how we managed to achieve this.

There are several factors which led to this success – without doubt, IAESTE would not be where it is without the passion, dedication and motivation of everyone involved in our mission:

- The students to whom we provide the experience of their lifetime and who, despite the pandemic, have maintained an interest in obtaining this experience.
- The employers and universities who are in many cases long-term partners and share our aims and keep the partnerships alive, even in economically difficult times.
- All our committees, staff members and volunteers who are tireless in working and contributing to our exchange programme.

One major achievement in the past year was the introduction of a pilot project for a new product in our exchange portfolio. For the first time ever, IAESTE is now offering students remote internships. This development was surely triggered and sped up because of the pandemic, but was already, for several years, in our pool of ideas. Naturally, any new product comes with lessons to be learned and things to be improved.



Looking at the positive feedback we have received so far from the almost 100 students and more than 25 committees taking part, we are very confident that remote internships will play an important role in the future of IAESTE, not to replace the traditional exchange, but to act as an additional option for those students who could not, for various reasons, take part in our classic internships.

Please let me thank everyone who contributed this year in one way or another to the IAESTE programme. Without you, we would not be able to reach all our very ambitious goals and we trust that together, we can overcome this pandemic and look into the future.

This future will still be very fragile in the first months of 2021, following what the scientists tell us in relation to vaccinations, herd immunity and the final victory over the pandemic.

But as fragile as this beginning might be, equally as bright will be the summer, when we hopefully will be able to welcome again the large cohorts of interns around the globe and all be part of the miracle of providing the experience of a lifetime for students.

Thomas Faltner
President
IAESTE A.s.b.l.



Welcome
From the
President

Thomas Faltner,
President

Welcome
From the
Head of
Operations

Olga Legacka,
Head of Operations

Dear Friends,

2020 has been a difficult year for all of us. It has most certainly had a massive impact on our organisation, members, volunteers, partners and friends alike; we remain thankful for your continued collaboration and for all the work you do to support our mission, our interns and our programmes.

Within IAESTE, we are determined to come out of this situation stronger. Thanks to our values: commitment, trust, friendship, diversity and growth, we have managed to prove our resilience in these uncertain times. We are very proud of the 700 students who experienced internships abroad in 2020 and grateful to all the employers, staff and volunteers who made it possible.

When the whole world switched to working from home, we introduced the international remote internship programme. COVID-19 has pushed all of us to focus more on distance learning programmes, e-learning, virtual mobility and remote internships, but this a natural path, as the development of IT tools democratises access to international experience. We see remote internships as an opportunity to be more inclusive and include marginal, disadvantaged or under-represented groups, enabling them to gain international experience.

For the last twelve months, we have been very active in promoting international understanding via our social media channels and website. We co-organised the UNESCO forum on global citizenship and were actively involved in international associations and networks such as Leonet and the EAIE (European Association for International Education).

What will the future look like? It's hard to predict, but I am sure we will continue our efforts to provide talented interns to employers, offer outstanding intercultural experiences to students, create a professional cooperation environment for our members, and provide the international friendship circle for all individuals associated with IAESTE. We will look for the opportunities, not the obstacles.



We will open 2021 with the very first hybrid IAESTE Annual Conference. This event is open to employers, universities, volunteers, and external guests and will gather over 500 participants from all over the world.

This Annual Review is full of great stories about how we continue changing the lives of students around the world.

Enjoy reading!

Olga Legacka
Head of Operations
IAESTE A.s.b.l.



Asil, IAESTE Intern from Palestine, spent her internship in Germany researching cancer with different cell lines.

What We Do

The International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience, Association sans but lucratif (non-profit association), commonly known as IAESTE A.s.b.l. is an association of national committees representing academic, industrial and student interests. We serve around 4000 students, 3000 employers and 1000 academic institutions through career focused professional internships abroad, social and intercultural reception programmes, international networking and other career and employer branding activities in 87 countries and on each continent.

Our Mission

- To operate a high quality practical training exchange programme between members in order to enhance technical and professional development
- To promote international understanding, co-operation and trust amongst students, academic institutions, employers and the wider community
- To operate irrespective of race, colour, gender, culture, religious or political beliefs, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression
- To promote non-discriminatory practices

Our Aims

- To provide students in higher education with technical experience relevant to their studies
- To offer employers well-qualified and motivated trainees
- To be a source of cultural enrichment for trainees and their host communities

Our Values

In IAESTE we are committed to fostering international understanding and impacting on the development of young people through international exchange. Our core values of friendship, trust, respect, professionalism, development and intercultural cooperation serve as a foundation for our strong organisational culture and as the principles that guide all our work and daily activities.

We are IAESTE



Our History

The Association was founded in January 1948 at Imperial College, London, on the initiative of the Imperial College Vacation Work Committee. National Organisations from ten European countries attended this meeting and became Members, and Mr James Newby was elected General Secretary. The geographical coverage soon spread to most of Europe and beyond, as new countries were granted membership. The Association became a registered body according to Luxembourg law at its General Conference 2005 in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.

Our International Relations

The Association is an independent, non-political and non-governmental body, in consultative partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and maintains consultative relationships with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the International Labour Office (ILO).

Our Structure & Network

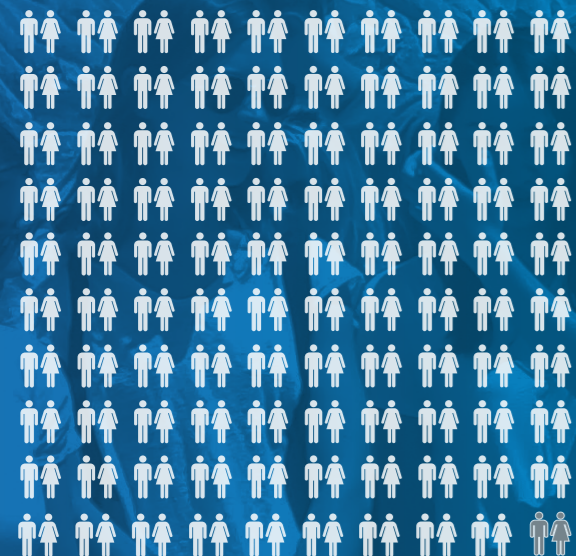
The Association is a confederation of National Committees representing academics, industry and student spheres of interest. Each National Committee is responsible for the administration of the exchange in its own country. Membership is given after the establishment of a National Committee in accordance with IAESTE Statutes and By-laws, together with a responsible permanent Secretariat. For countries without a National Committee, it is possible to participate in the exchange as a cooperating institution.

Each year the Annual Conference brings together the representatives of these bodies to decide on issues of general policy and, with the IAESTE cooperating Institutions, to carry out the exchange of offers for training. We have 87 members and co-operating institutions and are present on each continent. Each national office is responsible for the administration of the exchange in its own country. Sometimes IAESTE national offices are run by students and academics together, which makes us a unique organisation working across generations.

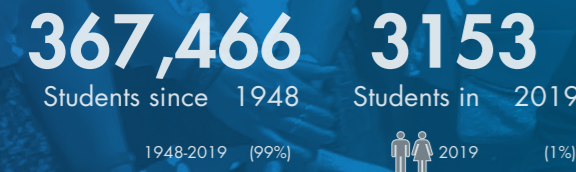


IAESTE Czech Republic team promoting IAESTE values: commitment, trust, friendship, diversity and growth.

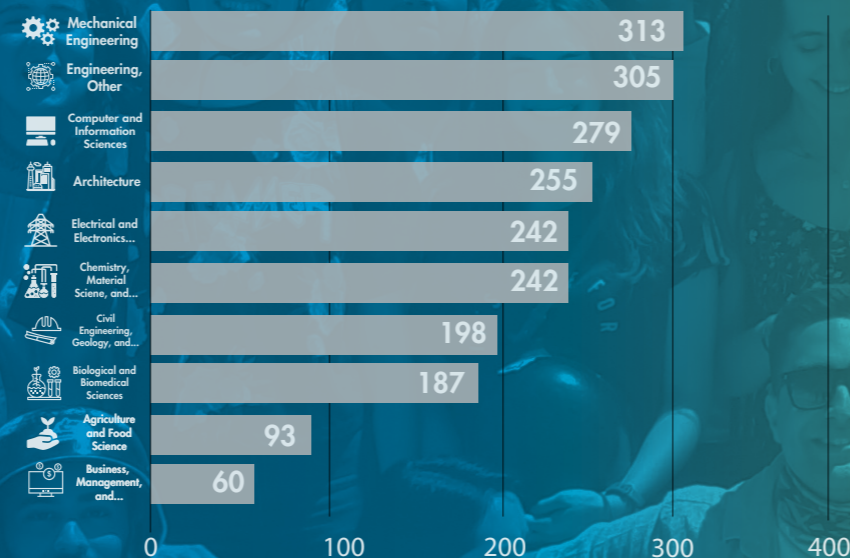
IAESTE Exchange 2019 in numbers



367 466 students have gained work experience abroad with IAESTE since 1948 and 3153 of them in 2019.

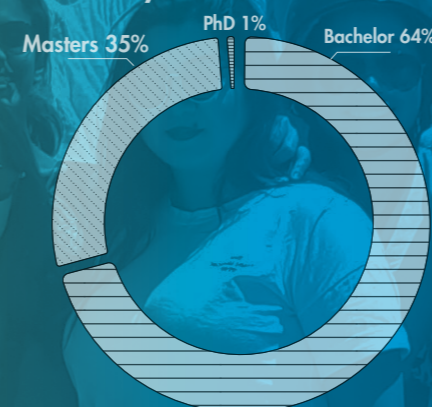


Top General Disciplines 2019 (number of students)



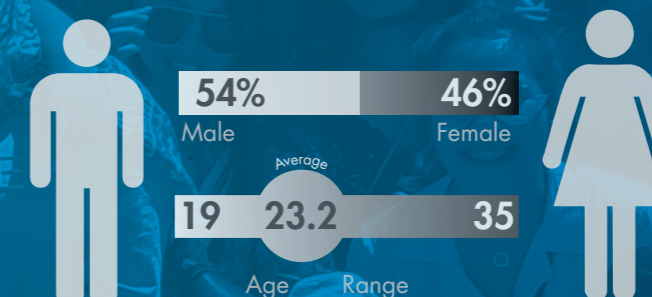
IAESTE stays focused on STEM and Applied Arts fields of study. The most popular fields of study are: Mechanical Engineering, IT & Computer Science, Architecture, Electrical Engineering and Chemistry, Chemical Engineering & Material Science.

Study Level of Interns



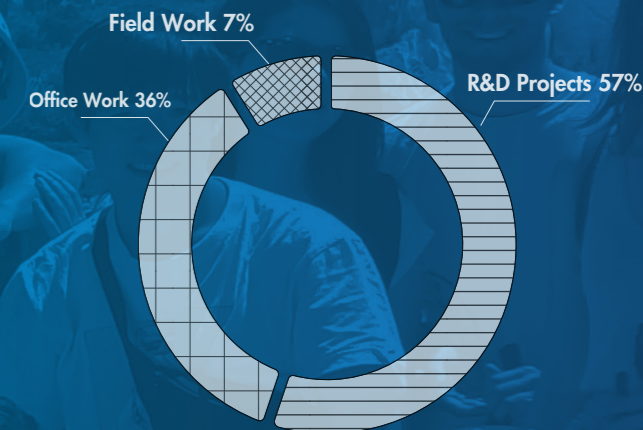
Most interns are undergraduate students (bachelor's degree) – 64%. Graduate students (master's degree) represent 35% of the interns' population. Also, PhD students benefit from IAESTE exchange programme.

Profile of Interns



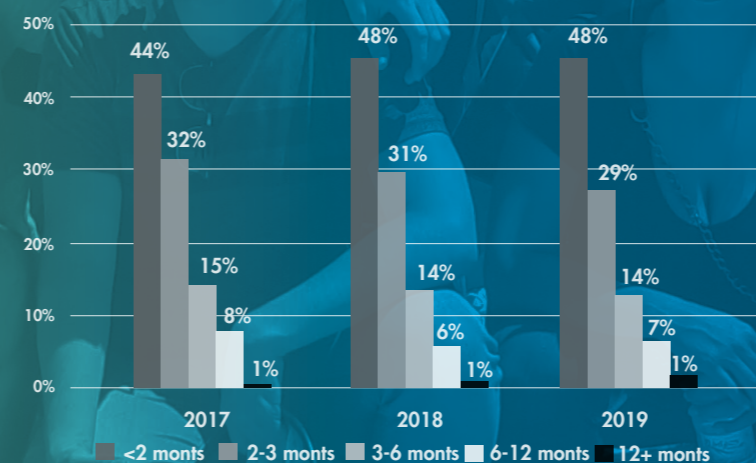
IAESTE operates irrespective of gender – in 2019 we had 54% male and 46% female interns. The average IAESTE intern is 23 years old.

Categories of Offers

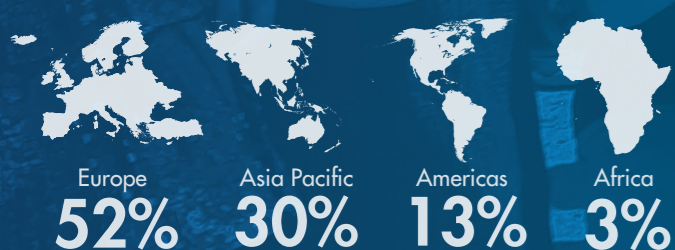


Most interns worked on R&D projects (57%). Offers in this category are often laboratory-based and deal with special research projects. They entail some element of diagnostic analysis, testing and evaluation and have some theoretical content. Every third intern in 2019 performed office work, dealt with assigned projects, possibly in a design office, in technical management or in testing services (36%). Fieldwork related to the production process, where students gain experience in the hands-on working environment, was less popular (7%).

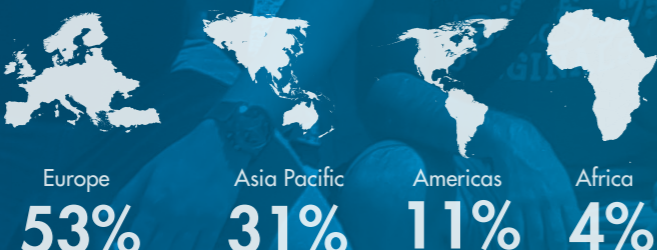
Duration of Internships 2017-2019



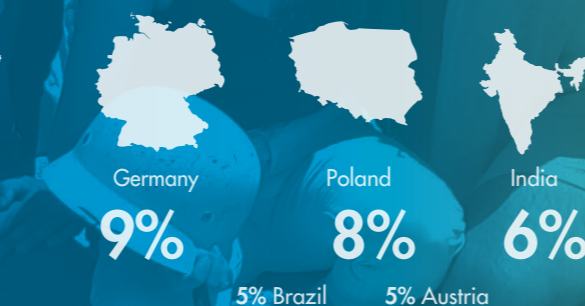
Sending Regions



Destination Regions



Destination Countries



Europe continues to be the most popular destination and also most students travelling the world are coming from the old continent. We are very happy to see the growth in the Asia Pacific region. The open international exchange is clearly illustrated by the fact that in 2019 each country exchanged on average with 14 other countries.

813

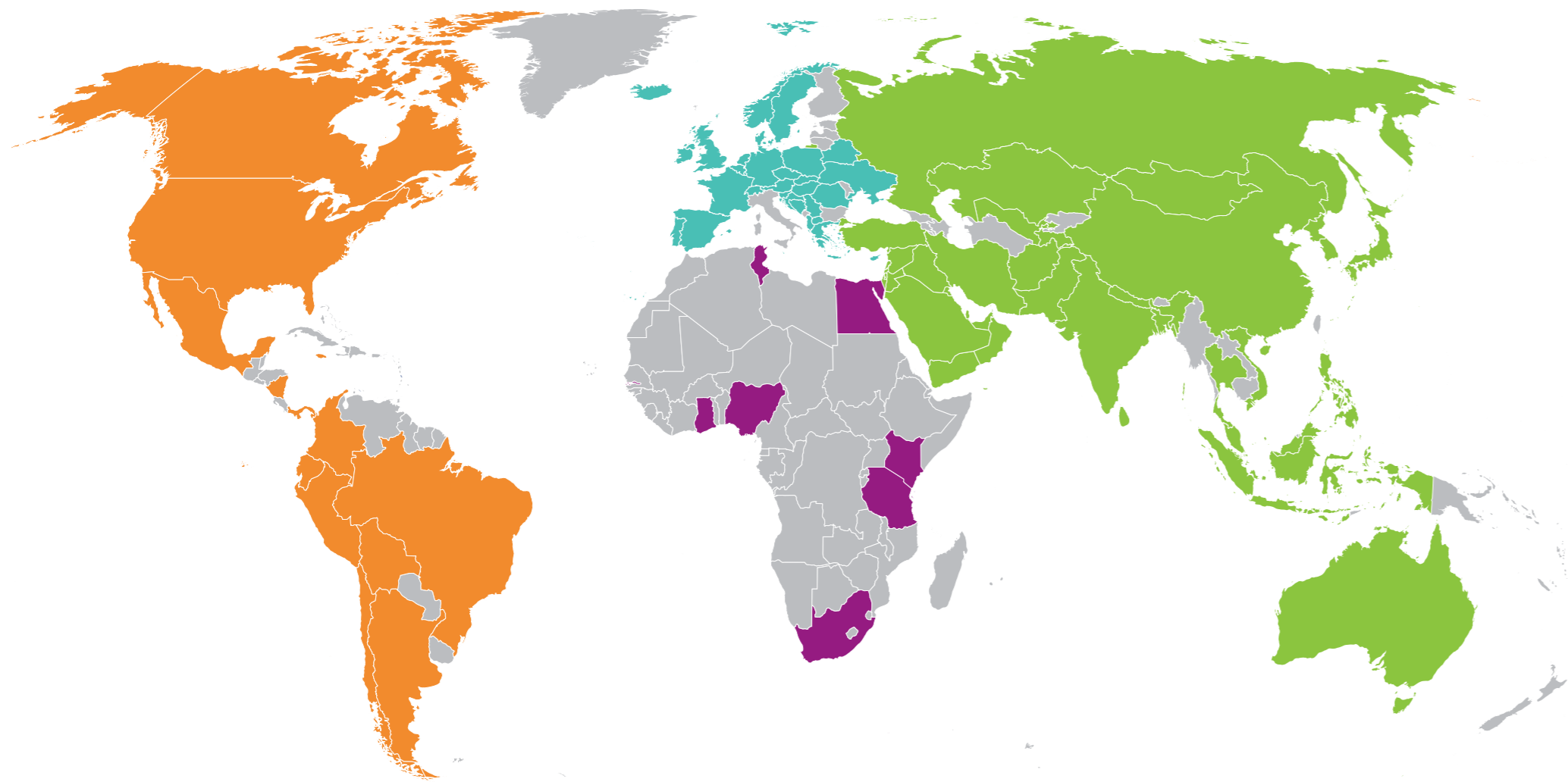
High Education Institutions

960

Employers

IAESTE exchange is an employer-led programme, meaning students are selected according to employers' requirements. Almost 1000 employers were hosting trainees* in 2019, and over 800 High Education Institutions have sent students abroad with us.

*In 2019 we have changed the way we interpret the number of IAESTE employers vs previous years. Since then we publish the number of employers who hosted students successfully, instead of all employers offering internships



IAESTE Worldwide

83 Countries in IAESTE network

300+ Local Committees

3000+ Volunteers

Europe

- Austria
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Luxemburg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- North Macedonia
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Russia
- Serbia
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom

Asia Pacific

- Afghanistan
- Australia
- Bangladesh
- China including Hong Kong SAR and Macao SAR
- DPR Korea
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Iraq
- Israel
- Japan
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Lebanon
- Mongolia
- Nepal
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Palestine
- Philippines
- Qatar
- Republic of Korea
- Saudi Arabia
- Sri Lanka
- Syria
- Tajikistan
- Thailand
- Turkey
- United Arab Emirates
- Uzbekistan
- Vietnam
- Yemen

Africa

- Gambia
- Ghana
- Egypt
- Kenya
- Nigeria
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Tunisia

Americas

- Argentina
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Chile
- Colombia
- Ecuador
- Jamaica
- Mexico
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Peru
- USA

70 years



IAESTE **Germany**
students sent 47372, received 71986



IAESTE **United States**
students sent 7501, received 11487

65 years



IAESTE **Turkey**
students sent 14149, received 9133

55 years



IAESTE **Czech Republic**
students sent 7017, received 6092



IAESTE **Slovakia**
students sent 973, received 942



IAESTE **Syria**
students sent 1939, received 1559

50 years



IAESTE **Ghana**
students sent 1285, received 948

40 years



IAESTE **Cyprus**
students sent 774, received 810

35 years



IAESTE **Mexico**
students sent 1587, received 1209

30 years



IAESTE **Pakistan**
students sent 219, received 148

25 years



IAESTE **Colombia**
students sent 885, received 830



IAESTE **Kazakhstan**
students sent 641, received 518

20 years



IAESTE **Belarus**
students sent 298, received 293



IAESTE **Bosnia and Herzegovina**
students sent 681, received 574



IAESTE **China**
students sent 355, received 163



IAESTE **Sri Lanka, UM**
students sent 136, received 125



IAESTE **United Arab Emirates**
students sent 268, received 364

5 years



IAESTE **DPR Korea, PUST**
students sent 0, received 1

IAESTE Anniversaries

The IAESTE network has been growing since 1948. We are very proud of our long-term relationships and would like to congratulate our members and cooperating institutions on their anniversary and we wish them many more successful years!

IAESTE International



Prof. Bernard Baeyens, Colombia finished his six year term (2014 – 2020) as IAESTE President. During this time, 20 574 students have experienced IAESTE internships that most probably changed their lives and professional careers forever. Thank you, Bernard, for your incredible passion, commitment and keeping the IAESTE family together. We wish you all the best and welcome to the IAESTE Alumni Club!



Anders Fredén, IAESTE Sweden

Members awarded three individuals with the **IAESTE James Newby Medal in 2020: Mary Mallon (UK), Anders Fredén (Sweden) and Seyed Reza Goldansaz (Iran)**. All three medalists are outstanding role models of presenting **IAESTE values: commitment, trust, diversity, growth and friendship** in their daily work.

The medal itself is a copy of the original silver medal presented to IAESTE by Mr James Newby, our associations' founder.



Mary Mallon, IAESTE UK



Seyed Reza Goldansaz, IAESTE Iran



The IAESTE Annual Conference

AC 2020 – what a week

Annual Conference 2020 took
place in Tatranska Lomnica,
Slovakia

Lubica Komarova, National Secretary
IAESTE Slovakia

As is tradition, our community meets every January to exchange offers, accept new policies or strategies, but most importantly, to celebrate the fact this organisation has thrived for another year. We get to meet our friends from each corner of the world and gather people believing in the same cause, people thinking international exchange is essential, and we can change people's perspectives just by being ourselves and welcoming other cultures.

With all of this in mind, IAESTE Slovakia proudly took the organisation of the Annual Conference under their wings. It decided to bring everyone into the heart of our beautiful High Tatra mountains. We tried to do things little differently by choosing the venue a bit further away from the nearest airport, away from civilisation. Our priority was to create an atmosphere resembling home because you might have heard about the term IAESTE family and for us, it is a statement, and we wanted to honour it and our friends, too. Our second priority was to show how much heart there is in our organisation and thirdly, we wanted to present our culture, our customs, delicious food and hospitality.

Back in the day, IAESTE Czechoslovakia had been one of the founding countries who hopped on the train with Mr James Newby, and 73 years later, we still manage to find people engaged. We are entirely volunteer-run, and we have our primary home at the Slovak Technical University.

In 2020, we are standing on the shoulders of giants coming before us, creating an environment where everybody feels included and may explore their interests. Thanks to all the support given to us, we have managed to create a week to remember, and nights never to be forgotten.

I welcome you to join me in revisiting the week of 24th – 30th January 2020.

The week started like any other by welcoming delegates from 85 countries. During the opening plenary, we heard that our organisation is essential; we need to act by being more agile; we need to care about our quality and increase the quantity. Then we were moved by voices of young Slovak singers singing traditional songs in assembly.



Sightseeing trip and moment of relax during hard working week.

The next day we had filled the room and the entire hotel with the energy when we were doing the thing we know the best – exchanging internships. The drive I see every year during exchange sessions is reassuring me that this organisation has a long future ahead of it.

During the General Conference, we gave the floor to the countries to talk about their problems and colloquialisms to listen and to help possibly. We approved the Strategy 2025 and promised ourselves we would be engaged and passionate. We elected new leaders to guide us. What a week!

On a lighter note, we tried to show delegates the best there is about our culture; via food, a cultural programme and via people engaged in creating it. All of the performing musicians were locally hired and were representing a different area of Slovak culture. We hope you all enjoyed the beautiful nature or skiing during the city tours.

Thank you for revisiting with me. As I write this in June 2020, we live in the strangest world. We cannot tell if all of our values will stay encapsulated after the pandemic. We do not know how this pandemic will affect our industry and finally, how will it affect us. As I said during my opening speech at the conference, this organisation is about those kids from underprivileged environments who need us the most. Companies who will thrive on international cooperation. Universities who need the potential and our volunteers. It is about every life we touch with international experience, and I sincerely hope this cannot be stopped by divided nations, uprisings of violence, nor the worldwide pandemic.

Slovakia has never experienced such a diversity of people before in one place at the same time. The Annual Conference showed our broader audience that friendship means more than cultural differences, that having a common goal is connecting people from as many as 85 countries, wholly stripped from judgement.



International Evening: tasting safran tee served by our friends from Afghanistan.

I would like to thank our main organiser, Peter Gabas, for actively being the one every one of us could rely on, for always having answers and drive and honestly, leading by example how a person in IAESTE should behave.

Secondly, a big thank you goes to our volunteers and helpers for being able to accommodate all our needs, we appreciate what you have done and the sacrifices you made.

Thirdly, I would like to thank IAESTE Poland and IAESTE Czech Republic for being there in our corner when we needed them and for helping us with picking up the participants at the airports and actively volunteering



Exchanging internships and discussing cooperation: the most busy place at the AC.

with us during the conference. This genuine effort was, and still is, very inspiring.

Finally, thank you IAESTE a.s.b.l. for allowing us to host 73rd IAESTE Annual Conference. It was our honour, it was our pleasure, and we hope you all had so much fun and felt as well-connected to your friends and colleagues as we did during this week and for a long time after. We think we accomplished our goal of creating a warm space for you so that you could reconnect with your friends and find the energy for co-creating this space with your IAESTE family.

IAESTE JUMP 2019

Turkey

Çiler Öztunca



Students enjoying JUMP

JUMP (Join Us to Motivate People) 2019 was organised in Fethiye, Turkey between 19-23 September 2019. 77 participants from 15 IAESTE member countries JOINED US!

IAESTE Turkey hosted this event organised by volunteer students of Turkish Local Committees. Among the subjects discussed at the workshops during this event were, collecting internships from employers, Local Committees structures, marketing, etc. The main purpose of this event is the motivation and education of newly participated LCs, whose volunteer students from different countries learn about how IAESTE is structured under National and Local Committees. Experienced students discuss the various aspects of IAESTE work in the workshops, thus the students going back to their countries start to implement this cooperative work principle with their own LCs.



IAESTE Turkey Volunteers celebrating JUMP success

JUMP is a totally student related event, giving the students enough space to express themselves together with their peers and guide them in a way that could motivate students. One of IAESTE's main purposes is to recognise cultural diversities and include them in IAESTE's internship process. JUMP has been realising this aim since its introduction as an international student event apart from National Committees which are more focused on the administrative exchange process. Expanding the international network among the students, sharing knowledge, as well as increasing the students' cooperation and motivation are key factors that contribute to IAESTE exchange process.

The home office isn't a just benefit anymore. Being able to work remotely becomes the new reality. Tomorrow, changes we have introduced to our working life, in order to fight against the pandemic and its economic consequences, will still be there and the home working environment, including remote working, will be much more prevalent than we could have possibly thought at the beginning of the year 2020. Looking into the future we have added Remote Internships this year to IAESTE portfolio. One hundred students experienced this opportunity between March and October 2020.

International remote work creates a future workforce

Millions of dollars have been allocated by many countries to fight COVID-19 and develop a vaccine. There have been many international teams of scientists working with the same mission. Would they be able to cooperate, sharing research and developments without being able to work remotely on a global scale? Certainly not. This example shows the importance of being able to work remotely across borders. It isn't something you learn while studying, you need a real international remote working experience. It all comes together with IAESTE Remote Internships.

Remote Internships build bridges across countries

According to InternetWorldStats, close to 60% of the world's population uses the internet. This creates new opportunities for students who are not able to participate in a traditional exchange internship programme

because they can't afford to travel abroad or because of their countries geopolitical situation and visa restrictions. IAESTE Remote Internships give them a chance to form international friendships and gain valuable work experience. IAESTE Remote Internships are an additional way, alongside IAESTE's world-known internship exchange programme, to connect even more students and employers and build bridges between cultures by using the latest technologies.

At the heart of IAESTE Remote Internships lies quality

Each internship is created and defined in such a way as to ensure providing students with valuable work experience. We guide both students and employers on how to work remotely on an international basis. As always, we care about each trainee and provide social and intercultural experience online and at home. The challenge we are faced with is the legal environment that isn't prepared yet for international remote interns and international remuneration standards. Our goal is to carve a path which allows compensating for the work done by students while working remotely.



Olga Legacka, Head of Operations, IAESTE A.s.b.l.

Valentina Carrasco Rosales

CF

Siddharth from India, about his four weeks remote internship at the College of Aviation Technology, Bangladesh

WORK

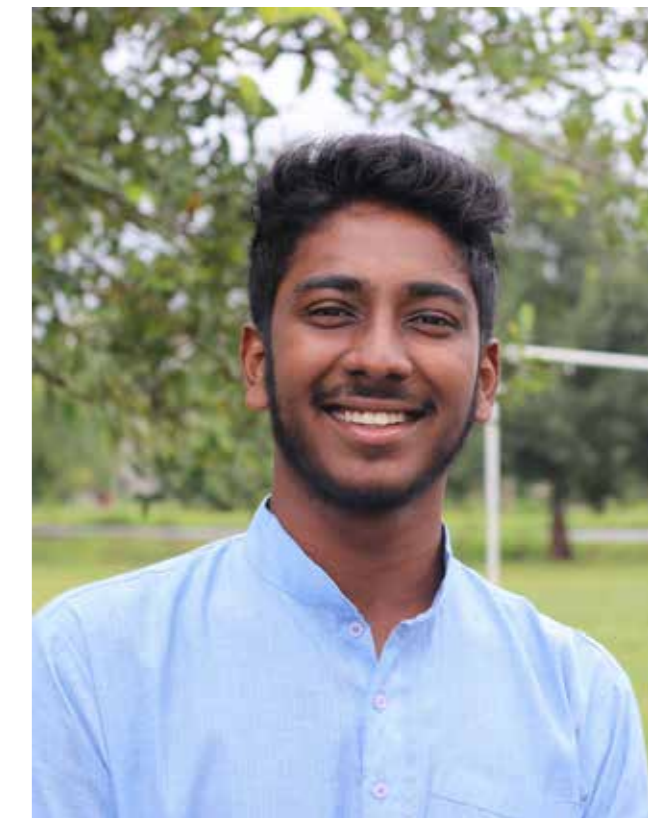
I was given the task of designing a settlement on Mars with ten thousand people. The work consisted of analysing the feasibility, finding means to produce all the physiological requirements and resources and mainly design the settlement itself. I used AutoCAD for floor plans and Solidworks to generate prototypes of some of the habitats and functioning parts around them. This will benefit me greatly when I'm writing research papers in the future.

EXPERIENCE

In spite of attending a remote internship, I gained a lot of insights into the structure and organisation of a research paper, how to build a professional relationship with the employers and develop my skills in design. Interactions with fellow remote interns helped broaden my network and gain knowledge in my field of interest.

DISCOVER

I learnt to be flexible and work effectively and this will definitely be advantageous for future opportunities. I taught myself how to go about your day and schedule your tasks efficiently to complete all the work that's been assigned. Most importantly, I think I've grasped more information in the fields of space exploration.



Siddharth, India performed his internship remotely.



AFRICA

Atiode Solar Systems

A progressive decade
with IAESTE

IAESTE Nigeria

*Otabor Ahanor, NS IAESTE
Nigeria presenting IAESTE employer
award to Atiode Solar Systems*

Atiode Solar Systems has been an integral partner of IAESTE Nigeria since its inception. We are a proudly Nigerian engineering company that is involved in the designs, installations and supplies of various solar energy solution systems. In the last decade, we have received more than a dozen amazing interns and young engineering professionals from several countries, who are given the chance to gain quality hands-on experience with our technical and service engineers, the interns equally contributed immensely to the development of our solar power solutions, bringing in fresh ideas, and wide-ranging perspective to the workplace, which confirmed our beliefs in IAESTE. We will continue to provide robust opportunities to interns from all spheres as it adds value to the company.



Atiode Solar Systems Team, NigeriaSwitzerland at Ansaldo Energia

The IAESTE Board recently bestowed on us, the 10-year Employer Merit Award at the 73rd IAESTE Annual Conference, for our decade-long support and contribution to the exchange programme. We sincerely extend our profound gratitude to the IAESTE Organisation, and to the team of enthusiastic members and volunteers who are continuously driving this association. Thank you IAESTE for the opportunity and recognition. – Fred Atiomo, CEO, Atiode Solar Systems Limited



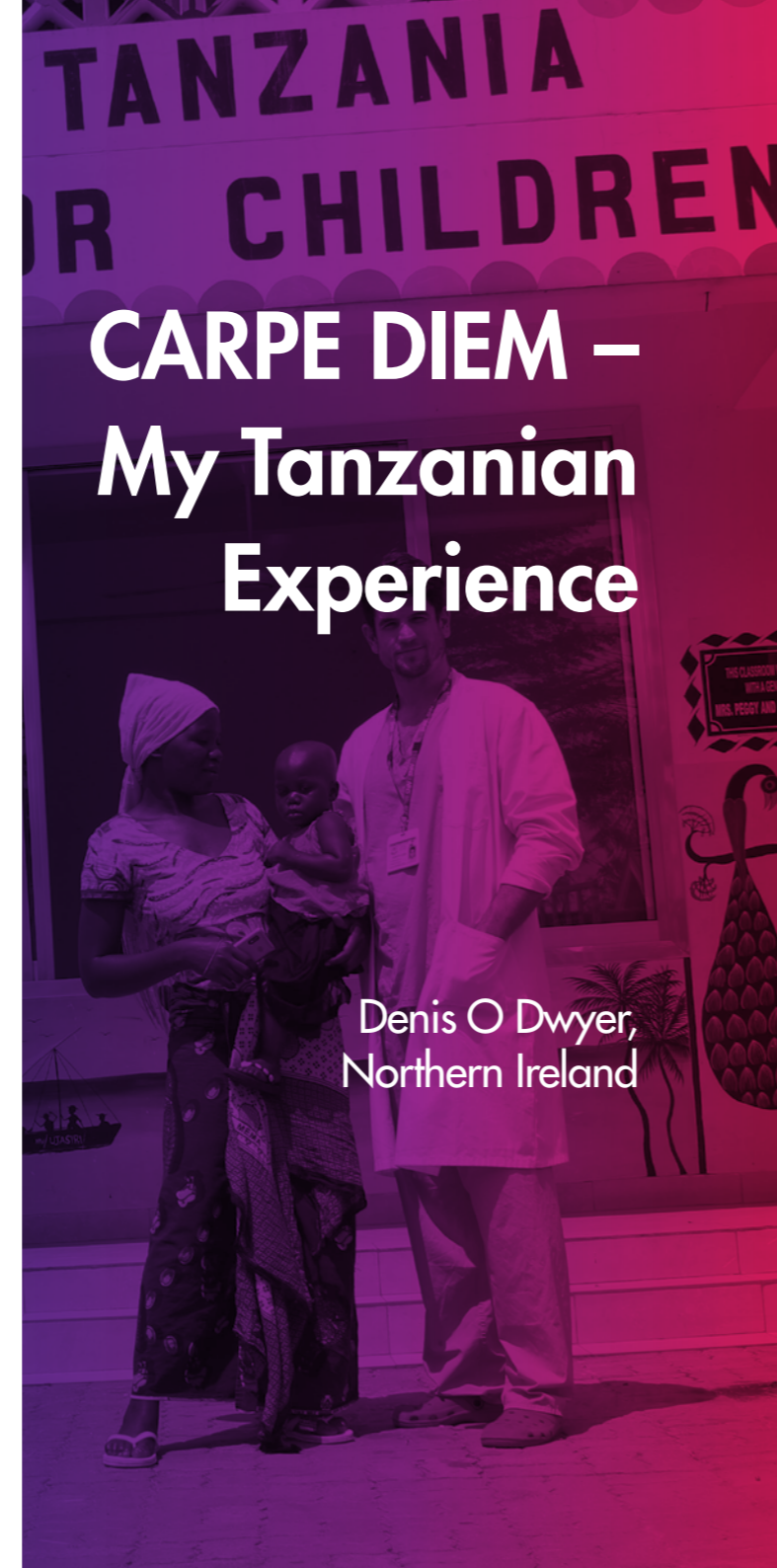
Standing outside the TML cancer care home with a parent and child

Mindfulness is a common everyday word that I sometimes feel loses its impact or meaning. It means maintaining moment-to-moment awareness of our thoughts, feelings, bodily sensations, and the surrounding environment. It allows a person to be truly present in that second and to appreciate it for what it is without worrying about what happened yesterday or feeling nervous about what's around the corner tomorrow. The unique thing about travel is that it shifts us into a mindful state, allowing us to appreciate and celebrate every day through diverse cultures and traditions.



Playing games with some of the local kids

During the months of July and August 2019, I had the privilege of travelling to Dar es Salaam in Tanzania to complete an 8-week medical attachment in Muhimbili National Hospital. Here I was assigned to the general surgical ward where I shadowed and learned from doctors on site. Being the largest tertiary medical unit in Tanzania, the hospital got a wide cross-section of the Tanzanian population. Meeting and treating patients in the first few days during my time there meant that I quickly became accustomed to the Tanzanian way of life.



CARPE DIEM – My Tanzanian Experience

Denis O Dwyer,
Northern Ireland



Me and the two other IAESTE students from Poland and Slovakia (Jakub and Tomas) on a beach in Zanzibar

One of the first things that struck me from very early on was the time each person afforded one another saying hello and asking them how they were. In the western world, we are so quick to get to the point, demanding what we want. I knew the pace of the country was going to be somewhat slower than what I used to but I never knew that this would be beneficial to me and my personal development. By learning a few common ways of greeting people in the local Swahili dialect and taking the time to ask a person how they truly were, it meant that I was able to forge bonds and relationships that otherwise would not have been possible.

Before travelling, I was put in contact with an amazing Irish lady who set up the first paediatric oncology department in Tanzania. She has lived and worked in the country since 2007 and meeting her was a revelation. Not only did she run the department, but she also founded a charity on the hospital grounds which houses and feeds parents and children during their time receiving treatment. I used to

visit this cancer care home daily to play with forever smiling children. Seeing these gorgeous kids suffering from conditions unbeknown to them put everything into perspective for me. It allowed me to realise what was truly important in life and how lucky I really was.

I want to take this opportunity to kindly thank IAESTE Northern Ireland and in particular the wonderful project manager Mary Mallon for her support and direction in setting up my international exchange. None of this would have been possible without her kindness and 24/7 assistance throughout my placement. I also want to thank Dr Derek Brazil, senior lecturer at Queens University Belfast for signposting and facilitating the IAESTE link with the university.

With the events that have unfolded across the globe in 2020, I have gained an even greater appreciation for my time in Tanzania. Not because I am longing for another travel experience, but because the country equipped me with the ability to live in the moment and take each day as it comes. Carpe Diem – Seize the day.

Last summer I had the opportunity to attend an IAESTE internship in Nigeria. Through coincidence, my internship was at two different universities. Those were in the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Benin and at Covenant University located in the city of Ota. Unexpectedly, the experience differed completely since Nigeria is huge and extremely diverse.

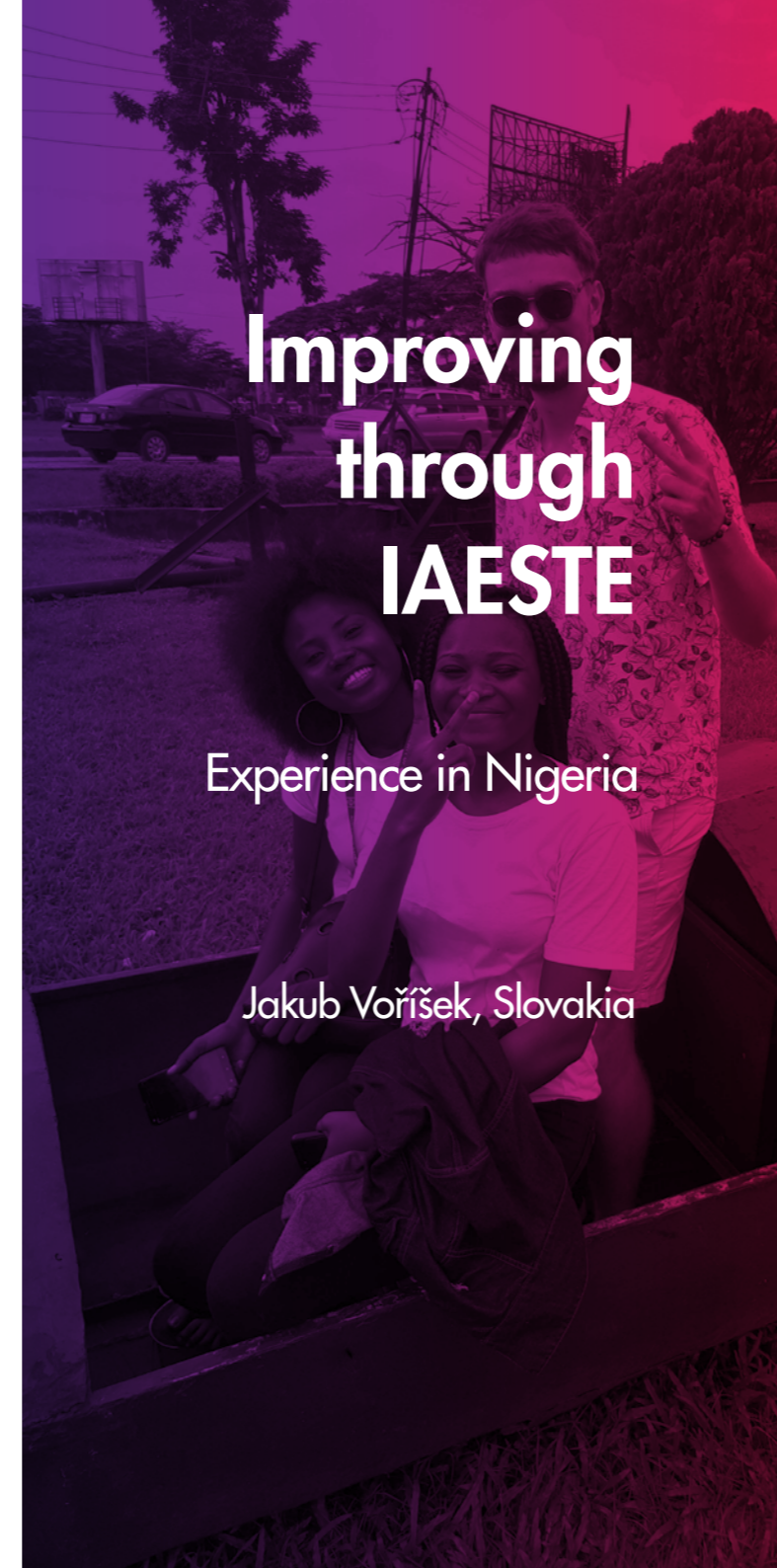
I spent the first weeks of my Internship in Benin City which is truly an intriguing place. The cultural presence of the Benin empire can still be felt; its art is completely unique to Africa and stunningly beautiful. Unfortunately due to protests at the campus, electricity and running water were lacking. Of course, it was uncomfortable but enduring it, made me, as a man coming from Europe, personally stronger. I learnt a lot about Benin art and architecture.

In the second half of my internship, I was assigned to work in the social housing department at Covenant University. This private University gathers the best minds in west Africa. I learned a lot about sustainability in African architecture. In the social housing department, I wrote a paper on the history of social housing which was of good use since the concept of social housing is still unused in the region.



Jakub's trip to Nigeria broaden his horizons.

Thanks to IAESTE Nigeria we went on organised trips. Those would be hardly possible without our coordinator. I would like to thank him for keeping us safe and showing us all those beautiful sites and places.



Improving through IAESTE

Experience in Nigeria

Jakub Voříšek, Slovakia



Nigeria is a place full of hard-working people.

Visiting Lagos was the best experience I had in the country. There is a certain energy in the city which is hard to describe. It is a place full of hustlers, hard-working people, that hail from all over Nigeria that try to make it big. Its Afrobeat music, great food, fast life, enormous population but also great inequality makes this metropolis totally unique. As the locals say: Lagos is the place to be.



Gaining a new cultural perspective helped Jakub to see outside the box better.

The lively and unique visual art of Nigeria has been of great benefit to my architectural practice. Knowing about African architecture, which is sadly underappreciated, broadened my global view greatly. I applied its style in my interior design project. The proposal has been a great success at my faculty because its unknown design brought in a fresh breath of air. Gaining a new cultural perspective helped me to see outside the box better.



Thanks to IAESTE Nigeria students went on organised trips.

Arriving back to my home country I was inspired to join IAESTE Bratislava. By being active in our LC I received membership and then I applied for the presidency for which I have been elected.

I have to say that the overall experience IAESTE offers is fantastic for ambitious students. I look forward to future endeavours. IAESTE truly changed my life.

AMERICAS

Remote Contemporary Medical Research

Baylor College of Medicine, USA

Ellen Dunlop, Northern Ireland

This summer I was planning to travel to Tanzania with IAESTE to work in a hospital and gain experience of different specialities in medicine. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 this had to be cancelled.

When the opportunity to be involved in a remote internship with Baylor College of Medicine (Texas, USA) arose I was eager to get involved as this would be a good way to fill the spare time I had now found myself with, as well as gaining academic knowledge from the staff and researchers at this institution. I applied and enrolled in the SMART programme which is run by Baylor College of Medicine annually on campus, but this year it was run remotely due to the restrictions.

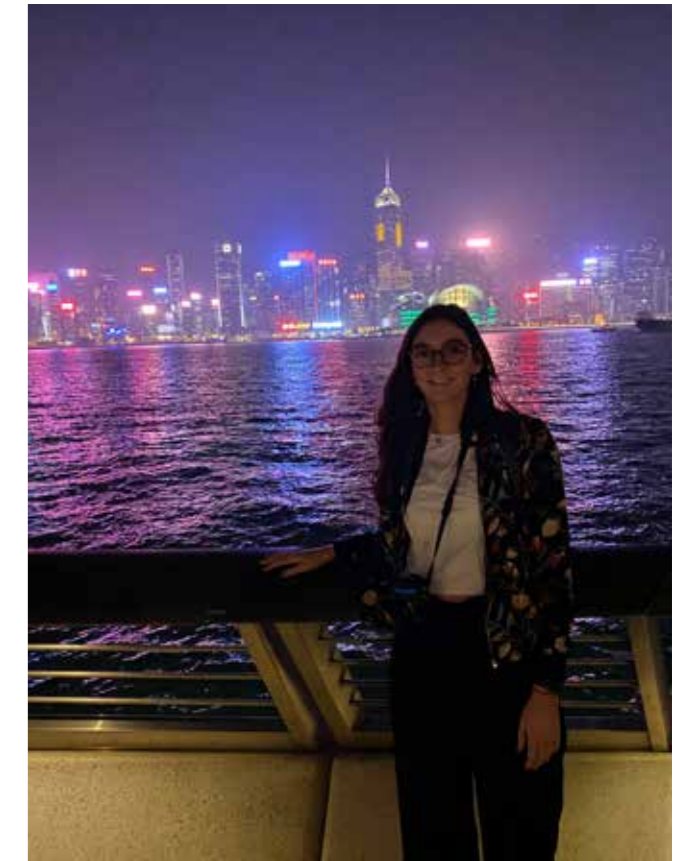
I was initially sceptical about completing a remote internship as I thought it would be difficult to learn through this format, however I was pleasantly surprised. All of the speakers are passionate about their research and make their lectures very interesting and easy to follow and learn from.

Aside from the interesting lectures, the remote internship has provided a way to give my day structure which was lacking due to the university being closed and my part-time job temporarily coming to an end during the lockdown restrictions.

The research seminar series included daily lectures during the months of June and July on a huge range of interesting topics relevant to studying medicine. The research faculty gave lectures on stem cell biology, cell and gene therapies for cancer, the human microbiome and tumour micro-environment. Additionally, there were research faculty provided lectures on the coronavirus pandemic and the process of vaccine development, which were of particular interest during these times.

The programme also provided professional development workshops once a week. These were useful for developing skills for academic writing, CV development and interviews.

Each one of the lectures was really engaging and it allowed me to get an insight into contemporary research relevant to medicine and provided new avenues for me to direct my own reading.



When travel was possible!

The remote internship was hosted using an online platform through which we were able to see the speaker and their slides and participate in discussion with the speaker during their talk which was really useful.

I would recommend this internship to other students studying medicine such as myself or those studying other biological sciences - especially those with an interest in research as it could provide some inspiration to further future work.



IAESTE Interns Leading in Innovation

Keenan Toure, USA

*IAESTE interns Sean and Florian,
wearing the prototype helmets with Dr
Cai*



Sean and Florian at the firefighter training centre in Denver for the NIST Haptic Challenge

Dr Yang Cai has been welcoming IAESTE participants into his lab at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) for the past decade. Dr Cai is director of the university's Visual Intelligence Studio, delivering cutting edge research on machine intelligence, the interactive visualisation of big data, biomorphic algorithms, and medical imaging systems.

He is also a fervent advocate for global collaboration and international exchange. In the past year, he has hosted two IAESTE interns: Florian Alber of Italy and Sean Hackett of Northern Ireland.

At the Visual Intelligence Studio, they have been working directly on a new type of interface that could serve as a safer communication tool for firefighters. This collaboration recently helped CMU win the National Institute of Standards and Technology Haptic Interfaces for Public Safety Challenge.

Using Science to Keep Firefighters Safe

The IAESTE interns travelled to Denver, Colorado for live demos in a firefighting training facility to understand how firefighters navigate unfamiliar paths through burning buildings. Being at the training facility helped Florian and Sean support Dr Cai to develop technology that successfully improves firefighter's safety and efficiency in the most challenging and hazardous environments.

The team named their prototype the "Haptic Helmet." The helmet communicates directions to a firefighter through a buzz sent to different sides of their head, indicating where and how to move. According to Dr Cai, the winning factor of this prototype was its simple design and low cost. Florian added that that the judges appreciated the intuitiveness of the design and Sean believed that their prototype made it easy to explain the commands to firefighters.

This win, however, represented much more than a successful design. It's a testament to what happens when talent from around the world joins hands to find solutions.

Developing International Talent through the IAESTE Programme

Dr Cai has been working with IAESTE interns for the past 10 years, bringing in interns from around the world to work on various projects. He commented that the talent often comes from European technical universities:

"These universities have great reputation and training and their graduates help us build diverse teams that can be productive and deliver the work we want. IAESTE participants have a brilliant work ethic. They have great communications skills, and that is monumental when it comes to writing and editing research papers for conferences."

IAESTE interns don't just add value to research papers. They work at the lab like other members, contribute to software development, build hardware systems, and make the lab more innovative. It was this innovation that Florian and Sean brought to the Visual Intelligence Studio that helped Dr Cai win the NIST Haptic Interface for Public Safety Challenge.

International Exchange: Learning Beyond the Textbook

Dr Cai worked in business before joining academia, which makes him a great mentor for IAESTE interns. He believes that engineers should be presented with real-life challenges from the beginning of their careers. He wants to create a nurturing environment where they have the independence to find their own solutions, but also the confidence to reach out if they need help: "We encourage engineers to find simple solutions that work in the real world. Although I give them instructions to guide and get them started, I also encourage them to use their own knowledge and experiment, because in the real world there is no textbook that tells you what to do and engineers have to work on a lot of problem-solving".

Dr Cai believes that IAESTE interns are well equipped to work in such an environment and to confront the challenging times we are faced with: "The interns are very professional and well acquainted with our standards and work. They learn quickly and deliver well."

Florian, who hails from northern Italy, compared the adjustment period to that of any new role and job. "It was a change of scenery and culture, but work-wise, I just felt like being in a new workplace. I have worked in Europe before and my experience there helped me adjust to the workplace here."

A Year of Learning and New Experiences

The exchange year marks a year of learning, discovery and new experiences. Florian pointed out that labs in the United States have a range of externally sponsored projects, which provide opportunities to experiment, practice, and learn. Sean, who has a background in electrical engineering, understands the immense learning opportunities: "The experience of interacting with real-life firefighters and working independently on solutions has been incredibly rewarding for me."

But the year has been more than professional growth and learning; it has given Sean and Florian an opportunity to witness American culture, to interact with people from diverse backgrounds, and enjoy distinctly American adventures and sports.

Although still in the United States working with Dr Cai, they look forward to going back home to share their diverse experience with another part of the world.



Sean and Florian explore the Grand Canyon



IAESTE Queen's members Emily and Stephen marketing at a club fair on campus in September 2019

As we approach the 2020-2021 academic year, and the fifth consecutive year of IAESTE Queen's as a student-led Local Committee, it is a great opportunity to look back upon the success we have had so far.

In 2016, the Queen's LC was reinstated as a fully student-run club through student government by our president Jenna. Since then the club has gone through multiple Presidencies with Jenna, Alex and Stephen all taking a turn as the leads. Past LC highlights include twinning with IAESTE Austria in September 2018, the conference in Glasgow in March 2019 which three of our members attended and 2020's virtual annual conference. Each of these events has helped us to connect with local committees from around the world, hear inspirational stories and learn how to improve



IAESTE Queen's giving a tour of campus to IAESTE Austria during a twinning back in September 2018

our skills in marketing, job raising and team-bonding. We wanted to say thank you for all the tips and tricks we have borrowed along the way. Our goal as we enter our fifth year is to increase our presence on campus so we may better contribute to IAESTE's network. As we enter a virtual Fall 2020 semester, our club is as committed to development, regardless of the anticipated challenges, as we have been since day one.

We hope to continue our growth and commitment to IAESTE's mission to create international understanding, cooperation and trust among students. As the new President, I want to extend an enormous thank you to our past volunteers, our ever supporting national committee and our current club members. Here's to the next five years!

I went to Japan in the summer of 2019 for an internship through the MITACS-JSPS summer research programme. I thought it would be a good opportunity to reach out to local IAESTE members while I was there, so I contacted a member of the TLSC (Tokyo Local Student Committee) through Instagram. At the time, I was an executive member at a club promoting IAESTE at my university and I had done an internship with IAESTE in Austria during the summer of 2017. I was aware of IAESTE alumni groups for backpacking and international events, so I did not think it uncommon to get in contact with other members.

Based on my past experiences, I expected the response to be friendly and hospitable, and I was not disappointed. After giving more information about myself and explaining what I was doing in Japan, I was invited to a Facebook page where events were being planned for IAESTE trainees. I was excited because I would have an opportunity to meet local students, which would not have been so easy if I were not a member of IAESTE. I browsed through the planned events and immediately noticed plenty of amazing activities such as hiking Mt. Fuji, touring Kamakura,



Dinner party in Tokyo

and sightseeing in Odaiba. I took note of the thoughtful itineraries that were prepared for these trips, which I would later find to be a welcome Japanese custom.



My Experience with IAESTE Japan

Summer reception & hospitality

Edward DeWit, Canada

富士山 3776m
Mt. Fuji
富士山登山記念
Mt. Fuji climbing mountain commemoration
2019年7月21日 五合目 2305m



Day trip to Odaiba. Edward went to Japan on his own, but with his previous IAESTE experience he was looking to meet IAESTE friends and spend time together with them. He was more than welcomed in the group.

The first event I joined was a dinner party where we would prepare Japanese and foreign dishes. I was a bit concerned about joining the activities since I was not participating in an exchange through IAESTE that year. However, that concern was gone after a few minutes at the

party where I was greeted with a warm welcome and kind-hearted curiosity. We separated into six groups, bought food from the grocery store, and cooked it on the top floor of a cooperative building in a room with individual cooking stations. There were about the same



Hiking up Mt. Fuji

number of Japanese students as there were trainees. By the time that the food was ready, we had already gotten to know each other and were looking forward to making more memories together throughout the remainder of the summer.



Andressa Leonília Gomes, Bachelor of Science in Technology with an emphasis in Chemistry, Universidade Federal do ABC – Santo André – SP

Andressa Gomes: I was brought up in a shantytown in São Paulo, where a teenager has few options in life. Usually, the path is a criminal life for males or pregnancy for females. However, there is always a second option and I took it.

In 2017, before I started to be a volunteer at IAESTE, my mom was diagnosed with cancer. It was a tough time for me and IAESTE was a refuge and a family. When I had the news about my mom's death, I was on a trip as a volunteer with more than 16 foreign interns from IAESTE.

Even though I was in a difficult time, I kept up with my dreams and overcame my fears. IAESTE has an important role for me and thousands of other students like me, facing internal problems and allowing us to see a light at the end of the tunnel.

In 2019 I was accepted for an internship in Sweden and I worked in the product development department, where I helped to create new products and improved on others. My experience was incredible and the employees knew me as a hardworking girl. Now, I am living in Sweden and working in the development engineers department as a summer job at the same company. My next step planned through IAESTE is an internship in the Czech Republic.



IAESTE: A real life-changing experience

São Paulo, Brazil

Andressa Gomes,
Maitê Koselitz and Victor Silva

IAESTE Brazil team, who stays behind all these great stories, celebrating Xmas.

Maitê Koselitz: In 2016 I became an IAESTE member. I lived in São Paulo, Brazil, the city where I had lived all my life. Also, I always say that it was in my hometown where my internship started because I met many foreign students.

As an IAESTE member, I went to the airport to pick up exchange students and helped them on arrival at bus terminals. I have done city tours and some trips with exchange students and other members. Mellet was one of those exchange students that I picked up at the airport as usual and he later became my boyfriend.



Maitê di Tomaso Koselitz, Environmental and urban engineering, Universidade Federal do ABC – Santo André – SP

2016 and 2017 were amazing years for me. I was at the end of my college, I was working and all the free time I had, I spent it with IAESTE exchange students and we had a lot of fun. I met amazing people, made friends from different countries, and became fluent in English. In 2018 I did my IAESTE internship at a research institute in Berlin (Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und -prüfung - BAM) and I was invited to IAESTE's Annual Conference as a speaker.

Since 2018, Mellet and I have been members of IAESTE IC Kiel (Germany). Last year we got married and we are happy. IAESTE changed our lives and without it, we would not be Mr. and Mrs. di Tomaso Koselitz.

Victor Silva: During a summer course in 2018 at the University of Hong Kong, I met a Brazilian woman, and she introduced me to IAESTE. When I applied for a position at IAESTE, many people advised that it was a risky decision, considering that I would have a promising future in Brazil because I was an intern at the Santander bank, but I was sure about my decision.

I applied for the offer in a company dedicated to Industrial Engineering in Bilbao, Spain. When I had the interview with my future boss, he asked me, at the end of our conversation, if I had any questions and I said "I would like to know when will I get the result from the application process?" and then he answered, "in 5 minutes". After that, I checked my email, and he was congratulating me for being chosen.

When I moved to Spain, I found out it was a vibrant country with a unique culture. My team at the company received me very well and when I became familiar with them, I showed some of the Brazilian and São Paulo culture. I love this cultural exchange! I work in an 80-year-old family company called GHI Smart Furnaces. My team is International Business Development, supporting commercial and technical engineers in the sales cycle, trade marketing, and customer travel. After a year of being an intern, the company I have been working for decided to hire me. That is something that would not have been possible without IAESTE. I want to finish my text with an "Eskerrik asko" which means 'thank you very much' in Euskera, the official language of the Basque Country.



Victor Maciel Gonçalves Da Silva, Industrial Engineering, Mackenzie Sao Paulo – SP





Gemma, scuba diving in Australia

I was an intern in a specialist chemical company in Melbourne, Australia. It was an incredible experience to transition from studying to working in an innovative company with a highly skilled hands-on team. I got involved in a range of projects from retrosynthesis to R&D and was trained in analytical techniques that will be invaluable for entering the industry.

It was incredible to be based in Melbourne, the local IAESTE committee was great and organised so many trips and events. There were other interns from Europe based in other companies and we would meet up to go exploring on the weekends, such as surfing at Torquay or hiking in the Grampians.



Gemma, with other IAESTE interns in Australia

My internship definitely made me more independent and confident. I explored the East Coast, getting to scuba dive in the Great Barrier Reef and celebrating New Year's Eve in Sydney. I also travelled to New Zealand, Thailand and Vietnam and met so many incredible people from all over the world. My traineeship is one of the best things I have done and would highly recommend it to anyone.

An Australian Adventure

IAESTE Ireland Intern Story

Gemma Mc Namara, Ireland

The Asia-Pacific IAESTE Forum

APIF 2019, Qatar

Dr. Ghazi Al-Rawas, Oman



Meeting with the Qatar University leadership, APIF 2019.

The Asia-Pacific IAESTE Forum (APIF) aims to strengthen ties and discuss common issues among the members of APIF. Other specific objectives of this gathering are to overcome the challenges of student exchange in the APIF region, promote and increase student exchange between APIF



APIF 2019, Qatar.

countries, enhance the core values and principles of IAESTE, improve communication among APIF members, discuss strategic plans to develop the future of the APIF, and thus a good preparation for the Annual Conference.

In 2019, Qatar University hosted the ninth APIF meeting in the period 5-6 October 2019, Qatar. Seventeen delegates from Asian countries and the Middle East participated, including: Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Turkey, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Indonesia, and Thailand, and in addition, representatives from the IAESTE board. Aside from the meeting, delegates met with officials from Qatar University during these two days to learn about the cultural and touristic attractions of Qatar through some visits to the most important landmarks of bountiful Doha.



Conquering the virtual world with IAESTE

Ishaan Pahwa & Advait Gangoli,
IAESTE India CI SMU

IAESTE Members amidst the snow-clad mountains of Zuluk, North Sikkim, India



Burhan Reshi, a trainee working on his Data Science Training remotely with Interns from IAESTE Saudi Arabia

How did it all start?

It had only been a few days when we returned from our IAESTE Members trip to the lush white mountains of Northern Sikkim to mark the beginning of a new session. As time passed, the 18th of March, 2020 came around and this day started to take a new shape for us at IAESTE India CI SMU. One thing led to another and we were all on our way to different cities across India. Everyone was determined to have an experience of a lifetime during the summers of 2020 but those plans had to be put on hold due to things taking a life-changing turn, globally.



Council Member, Eashana Hasan, attending a regular council meeting, remotely.

How did things start to take a new shape?

Within a few days, everyone became adamant to utilise this time to the fullest. Plans were in place to work with members, virtually, to prepare their documents for IAESTE Applications, and to provide benefits and guidance for the “CV Boosting Programme”. Council Meetings took a new turn and the background was our room’s wall instead of IAESTE Colours at the Office. IAESTE Members were interested as usual but instead of the regular functioning providing technical guidance, course counselling and support in terms of pursuing personal projects and binge-watching were now a daily routine.

Did the virtual conquering pay off?

Attending the “Connect Forum of Strategy 2025” gave way to new energy and I started volunteering to develop the database of IAESTE Photos. With ongoing circulation and generation of Remote internships, not only did we see an increase in applications for remote and traditional internships but also saw new employers wanting to generate internships through us. Even social media pages had a reach of over 2000 within a day. When others were getting used to the virtual world, interns from IAESTE India CI SMU were already working on virtual internships, which led to a drastic increase in the membership applications without even conducting a membership drive.

Tough times bought certain difficulties, yet with new initiatives, immense positivity and this new venture of IAESTE Remote Internships, we conquered them. For one reason or another, we will all remember this experience.



Experiencing Iranian hospitality

Internship at the University of
Tehran

Tabea Gallusser, Switzerland

„Being in a country with laws you are not familiar with and with words you cannot read, you depend on kind and patient local friends.“

Shortly after arriving in Iran, I fell in love with the Iranian people, their colourful cities, art all over their new and old buildings and their diverse landscapes. I got an insight into the lives of many Iranians whom I am lucky to now call friends. I experienced the proud Persians to be caring and very curious about you and why you came to their country, what you think about Iran.

At the biology lab, I got the task to do some research on the distribution and the associated biota of mangrove forests in the Persian Gulf. At the lab, we all got together in the daily lunchroom to share our meals. No one would leave the table before everyone had finished their plate. My caring co-workers fed me with wonderful traditional snacks and black tea. Others taught me Farsi, the Iranian language and how to behave in public or showed me what to see in Iran.

The thing that challenged me most was the Hijab. The dress code you had to follow in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Cover (most) of your hair

and neck with a scarf, giving you one more item to match with an outfit. Arms and legs should be covered loosely, which I managed by bringing oversized clothes. No worries, as a foreigner, small violations are tolerated. Nevertheless, on my last day, a girl ran behind me. Truly worried, she told me my manteaux would not cover my buttock, everyone could see my jeans! Namely, women need to cover the buttocks twice. I was amused by her caring about my safety. I got my manteaux into the right position and went on.

All local IAESTE members were so helpful. Being in a country with laws you are not familiar with and with words you cannot read, you depend on kind and patient local friends. We often gathered at a café after work, where trainees asked them to read the menu to explore more delicious Iranian dishes, to solve problems, or to practise some Farsi. I got closer to peoples' lives as an IAESTE trainee compared to an ordinary tourist. I am thankful for all the precious experiences I had during my internship and the people I met that widened my horizons once more.



The impressive Borujerdi House



Experience India with IAESTE

Unraveling the IAESTE Magical Experience

Kartik Sumrani, India



Discovering picturesque locations and ancient temples of India.

IAESTE, as an organisation, always has much more to offer than what we can give in return, and I, Kartik Sumrani (SRO, IAESTE India, LC MUJ), feel the same very strongly. My time as the Summer Reception Officer (SRO) has been overwhelmingly enriching and memorable. It has made me realise my potential, helped me grow as a person, and become more dynamic in approach. A summer with interns from different countries, cultures, and traditions can surely change how you comprehend the world around you. Making friends from around the globe, uncovering their customs and traditions, and simultaneously making them experience and discover our rich heritage and culture is something only IAESTE can offer.

By organising trips to various places like Pushkar, Jaipur, Delhi, and Agra, we shared the moments of the excitement of visiting new sites, an opportunity to learn a bit more about India, and getting mesmerised by the startling views of forts, temples and palaces. In 'The Jaipur Weekend,' we, along with interns, explored India's Pink City. The majestic buildings, glorious forts, and palaces, and a cultural evening showcasing vibrant Rajasthani folk dance and music left everyone happy.

The best part of Summer Reception was 'The Himalayan Challenge', IAESTE India LC MUJ's first flagship event. It was the most stunning seven days for all of us, an event open to all IAESTE Local Committees throughout India, wherein we met the most incredible people from other LCs. We had the chance to socialise and mingle with the various cultural and linguistic backgrounds they come from. Every fortuitous person who took the challenge had loads of activities to go through, such as Yoga Sessions, Bollywood Nights, Rappelling, Treasure Hunt, Trekking, Ziplining, and



Interns exploring the great city of Ajmer, an oasis wrapped in green hills with a rich and vibrant history

last but the most significant of all, the beautiful bonfires under the starry nights among the mountains. The Himalayan Challenge had definitely been a challenge when it came to organising and executing it, but it was undeniably the most successful and remarkable event.

I have made a lot of unforgettable memories during my time as the Summer Reception Officer. We've now turned into a small family, and I'll always cherish the summertime I spent with those wondrous interns. I will always be grateful to IAESTE India, LC MUJ for giving me this wonderful opportunity.

In June 2018, I was fortunate to have an opportunity to be an intern at Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) in Muscat, Oman for an IAESTE internship in mechanical engineering. For 2 months I was working at Oman's major oil exploration and production company. But, soon I was thanking my stars for so much more that I was able to experience.

The time I had spent in Oman was not only memorable because of the technical experience I was able to acquire but it allowed me to engage in a cultural experience like never before. I was able to build strong friendships with individuals from around 19 countries. From camping at the turtle beach at Sur to camping in an actual desert, just before visiting the coast of Barka to hitch-hiking taxis, those two months had everything to experience for a first-time traveller like myself. The historical sites like the Grand Mosque, Nizwa Fort, Nakhal Fort and even the palace of Sultan Qaboos, which I was able to visit were nothing short of breathtaking.



This is me channelling my inner Joker.

Oman, you beauty!

Rohit Philip Alexander, India

I was able to learn a lot in terms of my experience at Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), I was capable to accept challenges which I was not aware that I had it in me to tackle.

I was able to learn a lot in terms of my experience at PDO, I was capable to accept challenges which I was not aware that I had it in me to tackle. My heartfelt thanks to the team at PDO for imbuing me with lessons that you can only learn through intuition and not just through notes in classrooms.

From the sunset I'd get to watch from our accommodation with my friends to the walks I'd take to the local souq near Al Khoudh with them, if there was a chance to try and relive those two months, I'd do it in a heartbeat. The time I spent in Oman was something which I will cherish and it was a life-changing experience. I was in the company of friends from different parts of the world, it didn't matter the colour of our skin or the kind of faith

we believed in, we enjoyed the company we got to share (not to forget the Kunafa all of us would love to eat by ourselves if we got the chance...)

To Mr Moadh and the team of IAESTE Oman, thank you isn't enough for taking care of us back in Muscat, the team really showed us the beauty that Oman has and the cultural diversity that the country is known for. Lastly, I would like to thank the team from LC Karunya for their guidance and for providing me with an opportunity of a lifetime and their constant support.

IAESTE really allowed me to WORK. EXPERIENCE. DISCOVER.



The impressive Borujerdi House.



Me with the view of Bastei Bridge of Saxon Switzerland, Saxony, Germany.

Going for an internship in one of the most industrialized countries was the wisest decision I have made so far. I was an intern at TU Dresden in Germany, in the heart of Saxony from September to November of 2019.

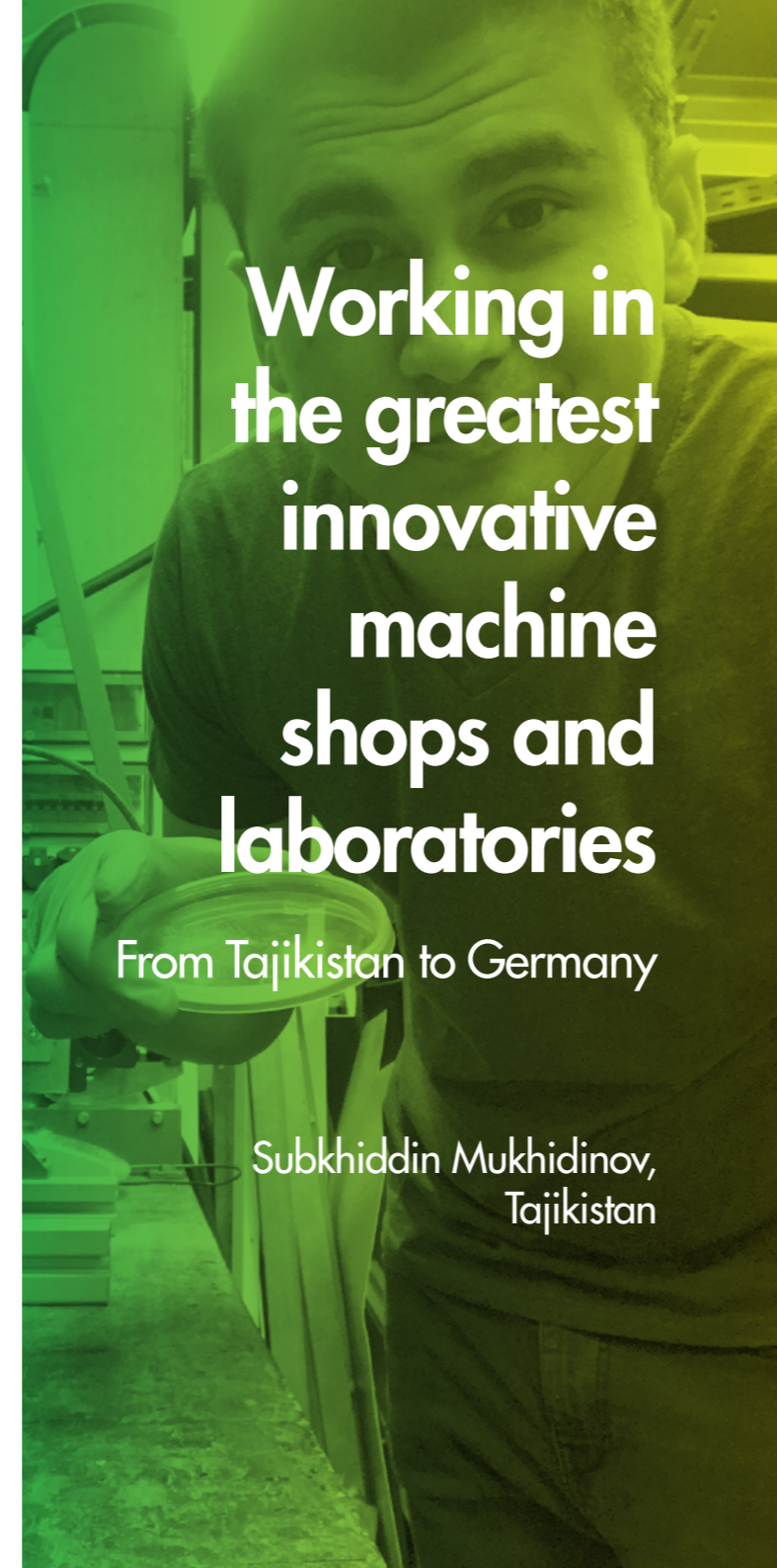
Following the motto of IAESTE – Work. Experience. Discover. I got a chance to work in the greatest innovative machine shops and laboratories under the supervision of experts and scientists in my field. As every junior engineer I want to research and develop new technologies. At the



Designing process of the gripper unit.

Institute of Lightweight Engineering and Polymer Technology (ILK) of TU Dresden, I was able to do so. I was a member of the project related to the development of a gripper unit for adaptive and automatic fabric positioning in a textile preforming process under the supervision of Dipl.-Ing. Eckart Kunze.

My tasks included working on the design, assembly and testing of a binder application system for efficient preparation of complex fibre



Working in the greatest innovative machine shops and laboratories

From Tajikistan to Germany

Subkhiddin Mukhidinov,
Tajikistan



Testing powder flow in laboratory.

preforms, conception and design of the individual modules of the binder application system using CAD and investigation of the application of the binder under variation of process parameters. I spent the first half of my internship in front of the computer designing the equipment and the other half in the laboratories testing motors and meshes.

Thanks to IAESTE, I had a chance to experience living abroad which initially caused me a cultural shock and then with the help of local



At Brazilian dinner with trainee's and volunteers.

volunteers and other trainees I embraced what I saw in Germany. Enjoying weekly cultural evenings and occasional night-outs were part of trainees' life which decorated our stay there.

Moreover, my dreams of going hiking to the Alps and attending Oktoberfest came true when we traveled to Munich with other trainees and volunteers of the local committee in October. Another fascinating aspect of living in Europe was finding yourself a weekend bathing in



My dreams of going hiking to the Alps and attending Oktoberfest came true.

Budapest, the next weekend walking in Ringstrasse in Vienna, or doing something else somewhere else.

All in all, I am immensely grateful to IAESTE that induced me to broaden your horizon, experience different cultures and meet many-many interesting people and I would address every youngster frankly and admonish them to try this life-changing experience.



An enthralling journey in Petra, one of the seven wonders of the world.

I am Harsha, a mechanical engineering student from India and I did my internship in Jordan, through IAESTE.

I was one of the trainees working under a team of highly dedicated engineers at the University of Jordan. I was involved in two projects during my internship. My mentor guided me through the various aspects of the project, as well as giving me precious knowledge of professionalism and work ethics. The reason I chose Jordan for my internship was because of the country's culture. Jordan is an amalgamation of all the Arab countries.

Being the youngest intern, I got a chance to learn from the experiences of the other interns. I stayed and worked in Amman, capital of Jordan where I got the chance to interact with 40+ interns coming from different



The mesmerising skyline of Amman visible from Amman Citadel.

backgrounds and cultures making it a vibrant experience. I was enthralled by noticing the profound culture of Amman and I could relate it so much to my own culture. Mount Nebo, the Roman theatre and Amman Citadel were fascinating too. A trip to the Dead Sea left me completely flabbergasted as I was standing in 15 ft water. I also got the chance to visit Petra, which is one of the seven wonders of the world. Finally, I should say I was completely bedazzled to visit Aqaba, a city situated on the Gulf of the Red Sea, the Red Sea's turquoise water was scintillating.

From getting the first salary of my life to playing games with other interns I enjoyed every bit. This will be a special internship for me.

Thank you so much IAESTE JORDAN and IAESTE MUJ for this opportunity.

My memorable internship in Jordan

Harsha Pandey, India

Connecting the world with IAESTE

Oneness

Dr Santosh Patil, India



Celebrating the International Cultural Evening organised by IAESTE LC MUJ

IAESTE Exchange has been one of the greatest platforms for me to interact with talented international students. I have guided 3 students till now, they were: Joseph from Germany, Felipe from Brazil and Bassam from Oman.

The students were enthusiastic and keen on learning things technically. They also wanted to explore Indian culture, heritage, and food. It gave me immense exposure to their ability to grasp the technicalities and the approach they use for performing various tasks. Joseph and Felipe were fast learners and performed scrupulously in modelling and analysis of



Cross Culinary Food event by LC MUJ

Mechanical components, while Bassam was good at comprehending and showed his eagerness to learn.

I would like to interact and continue working and proposing new projects to the incoming foreign students and encourage the IAESTE exchange programme. Also, special thanks to the IAESTE LC MUJ and wish them all the very best in their future endeavours.

I did a three-month internship in the Philippines in 1979 when doing my master's in civil engineering at ETH in Zurich. I heard about IAESTE from a friend of mine who just returned from an internship in Scandinavia. I immediately applied myself, choosing the Philippines as destination. I felt very much attracted by this exotic 7000 island state.

It turned out to be a great experience, leaving a lasting impression for the rest of my life. In the Philippines I had the opportunity to work with the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) on two interesting projects. First not far from Manila with the Laguna de Bay irrigation project located in Pila. At the very beginning I joined a group of engineers doing the surveying for a new road. We had to take measurements in the rice paddies. It was just before the rice got planted. So, the fields were covered with water and we sunk knee deep into the mud. I was concerned about snakes but otherwise liked doing real work with the local people of the country. The rest of the time I worked in the office drafting for the new road. In between I joined engineers supervising other works, like building new irrigation canals or pump stations. In Pila I have had a great host family. Accommodation was basic but comfortable and safe. They introduced me to local food, brought me to school events and thought me how to cut and eat fresh coconuts.



Celebrating the International Cultural Evening organised by IAESTE LC MUJ

My second assignment was at the Magat River Multi-Purpose Project in northern Philippines. A huge world bank financed dam for electricity, irrigation and flood control. There I lived on the camp in houses built for site management and foreign experts. The construction site was huge, and every few days I was assigned to another engineer: Tunnelling,

IAESTE alumnus on his internship in the Philippines

Throwback to 1979

Ueli Brunner, Switzerland

excavation, drilling and blasting, concrete and aggregate production, steelworks. I could not do any real work there but was shown and explained everything. Living on the construction camp far away from everything I felt sometimes isolated. Living with a local family was certainly much more enjoyable.

After a total of three months with NIA I spent another two months travelling the Philippines as backpacker. By now I was very much localized already and felt most comfortable travelling with local buses and ferries, eating local food, and staying in local accommodation without running water and certainly without air conditioning.

When after six months I had to return back to Switzerland to finish my studies at ETH, I was certain to return to the Philippines for good someday. A dream that finally never materialized for family reasons. But the foundation was laid for an international career. After some years working as Civil Engineer, I did

an MBA at INSEAD in France and changed to management. I got married and we got sent on expatriate assignment for a Swiss Multinational to Tokyo (with my wife and newborn first son), Singapore (there my second son was born) and Belgium. We returned to Switzerland for the schooling of our children, but I continued travelling worldwide for business. I have returned to the Philippines several times for business and for vacation. My friend who originally introduced me to IAESTE got married to a Filipina and is now retired in the Philippines. I still keep contact with him, and to some members of my Philippine families too.

I strongly recommend doing an internship in a foreign country. But be prepared that you fall in love with another country and culture, and that your heart might be torn apart for the rest of your life between two home countries.



IAESTE internship was a solid foundation for an international career and many travels.

EUROPE

Internship at Rosim As, Norway 2020

Oslo, Norway

Sandi Grobin, Slovenia

I will write a few words about the company to get a better idea of what the work is about. Rosim AS is a technological company that has its focus on measurements within the wastewater management. They have 200 flowmeters all over Norway and Sweden. The company installs these meters, maintains them, and operates them for the municipalities. They also have 150 rain gauges that measure the rainfall, which is used by the Meteorological Institute, among others. All the measured data is being sent via GPS to their online platform.

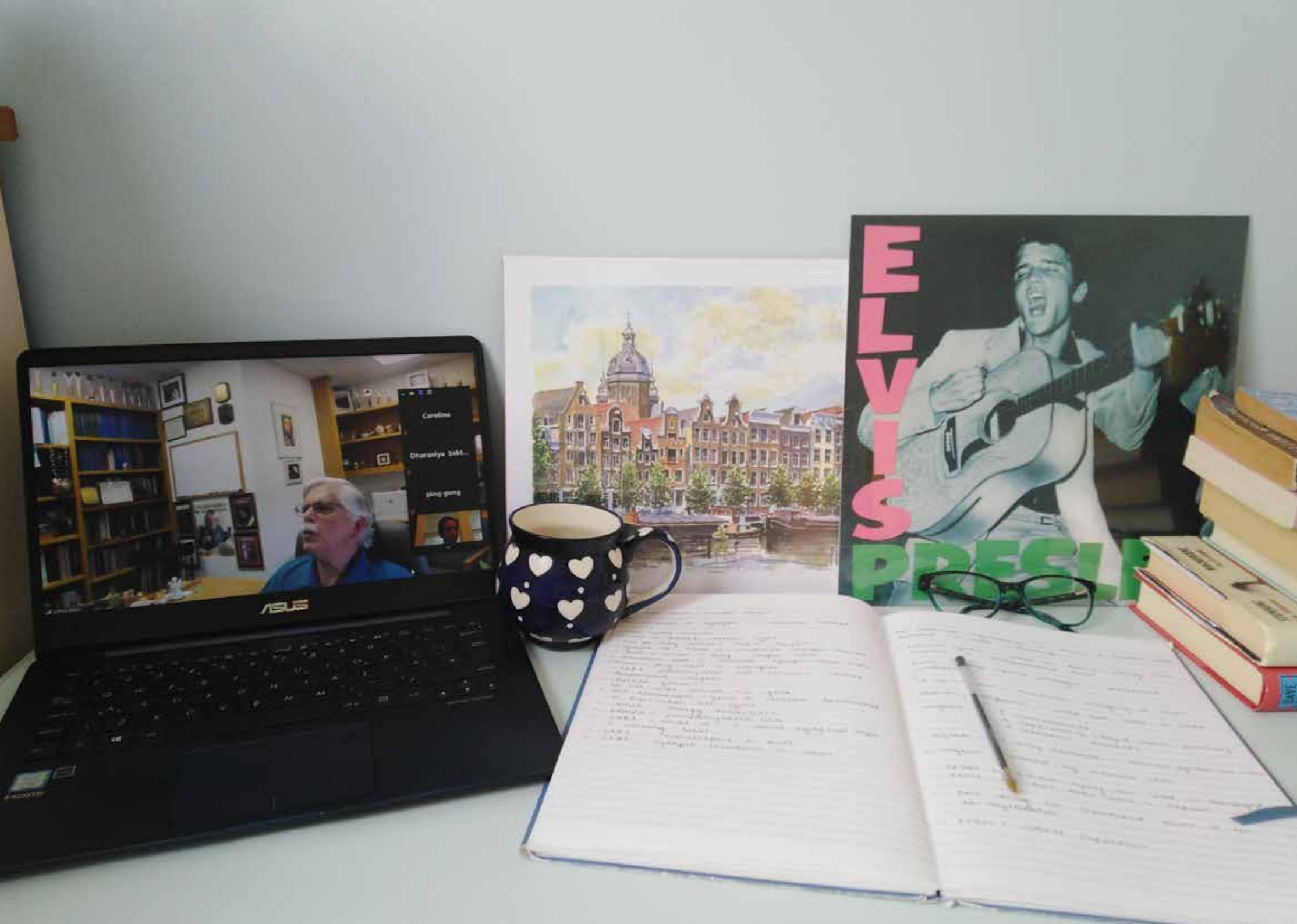
My position as a trainee is a service engineer. The tasks for which I am responsible for are installation, operating, and maintaining the flow sensors and the rain gauges. This includes the preparation of the necessary equipment and calibrating the sensors once they are installed. I also help with the production of products that are part of the measuring equipment.

Because my work includes a lot of fieldwork the work hasn't really changed during COVID-19 time. The company is also very small with a small number of employees and we all work with each other daily.

Even though before the lockdown in Norway I was working only for two weeks I don't see any changes in work. Of course, we follow all the security measurements which we already had to follow before because of working with wastewaters.



My position as a trainee is a service engineer and my work didn't change much because of COVID-19 restrictions.



Remote Internships 2020

Northern Ireland – USA

Mary Mallon, Northern Ireland

Caroline's home working setup



Caroline remote working

Many students are in lockdown this summer due to Covid-19 with international travel restricted, but one student from Queen's University Belfast decided to use her time gaining international skills and experience through the British Council's IAESTE programme.

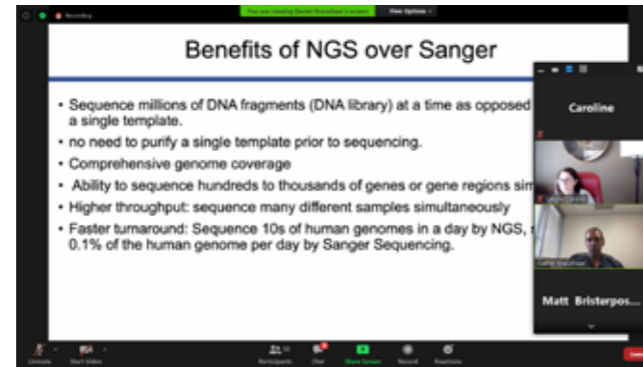
For one student, Caroline Campbell, from Queen's University Belfast, being accepted to undertake an IAESTE placement at Baylor College of Medicine, in Texas, USA was like a dream come true. In the final year of her degree in Biomedical Science, Caroline was extremely excited at the prospect of joining the Baylor College of Medicine for the summer. Caroline says, "I saw it as an amazing way to kickstart my career in science – a once in a lifetime opportunity!"

So, when COVID-19 meant travel was not possible, and IAESTE USA and Baylor College of Medicine offered an alternative to Caroline – a remote internship, she jumped at the chance. One of the things that Caroline was impressed with was the clear structure and how organised the Baylor Remote Virtual SMART programme was. Caroline's project involved virtual scientific research into breast cancer, led by her supervisor Dr Jeffery Rosen, himself an IAESTE Alumni. Caroline had 1-1 weekly e-meetings with Dr Rosen and participated in synchronous online research discussion groups with Dr Rosen and students from across the USA. Caroline remarked that prior to the internship she had never spoken with anyone from the USA. Caroline says, "Working virtually with Dr Rosen and fellow students from across the USA, has nurtured my love of science and exposed me to the latest research techniques and breast cancer breakthroughs. At the end of each week, we met online to discuss the results of that week's lab work and

talk about the direction of the lab work for the weeks ahead.” An aspect that Caroline wishes had been possible was being trained in the use of the high-tech equipment currently being used in the Baylor laboratories, but then she says that laboratory work would not have been possible here at home either this summer.

One thing Caroline was not expecting this summer was to virtually rub shoulders with directors of the Advanced Technology Core Seminar programme. Caroline feels she has really benefitted from the daily seminar part of the programme. She says, “I have heard from a range of academics who have shared their personal stories of how they got into science and their path to becoming faculty members at Baylor. I found this particularly inspiring as I will be graduating during this summer and these positive stories have given me a real boost.” In addition, Caroline has been able to expand her knowledge in a whole range of areas through the Advanced Technology Core seminars which are presented daily by the directors who described and discussed emerging and leading-edge technologies and their applications in biomedical research. Each week focused on a different speciality, from Neuroscience to Genetics; Immunovirology to Infectious Diseases. During these daily interactive synchronous sessions, the participants were encouraged to ask questions and use the platform to network with leading academics and students.

In the current climate, employers are pivoting their employment models, and the remote internship has enabled Caroline to be immersed in this



Zoom become for many of us the meeting place. Caroline while discussing with other interns and supervisors.

new online way of working. The skills she has mastered will undoubtedly be sought by employers and help her CV stand out from the crowd, increasing her employability. But you know it's not all about science, weekly professional development workshops aimed at developing skills in a range of areas were an aspect of the programme which Caroline feels she has really benefitted from. Caroline says, “It is interesting to get an insight into the American perspective on professional development. I can see myself making use of the tips I have picked up, on things like informational interviews, developing a professional web presence, which I can see is especially important as a graduate of the summer of COVID-19, as well as a graduate of the summer of 2020!

Jonathan Stewart, Director of the British Council Northern Ireland recognises that challenges have been overcome, “It is fantastic to see how the prestigious IAESTE programme has adapted so quickly in the current circumstances to still provide quality opportunities for our university students to gain an international experience. The Remote Internships help to provide NI students with new technical skills while also experiencing a different culture and ways of working from a US employer.”

Online Silver linings – through the generosity of IAESTE USA and Baylor College of Medicine, an additional seven students from Queen's University Belfast were offered places on their SMART Seminar series. One of the beneficiaries Tze Chang (Justin) Ng writes, “I am really enjoying myself with the remote internship at Baylor. Their webinars, whether it be science or self-development, have been very insightful and interesting.”

So, no bags to pack, no visas to get, no flights to book – but another memorable summer thanks to IAESTE – going global virtually in the summer of 2020!”

Remote workshop, real experience

Strawberry moments during the pandemic



Mateusz Syrycki, Poland



Students with printed masks in the hospital

The last few months were very difficult for IAESTE Poland not only as an organisation but also as human beings. The new ways of communication and remote working or for some of us, quarantine, changed our daily routine. But the situation hasn't changed our love of IAESTE and the communities that we have built.

Workshops

In Poland, apart from the exchange programme, we are trying to spread the IAESTE mission in every possible way. So, we couldn't forfeit our other important project, IAESTE Caseweek. Right after we realised that we couldn't organise the workshops in the usual way, our team contacted the companies and we continued to organise the workshops with companies that were happy to do them remotely.

Online Conferences – Hold my coffee...

During the pandemic, we were supposed to hold our annual conference where we share knowledge with new members. But even when the sun is shining, government regulations are government regulations, so it was impossible to handle the conference in the usual way, so we started planning and a few weeks later, we provided our Local Committee members with the knowledge necessary to work remotely, with the help of our most experienced members and alumni.



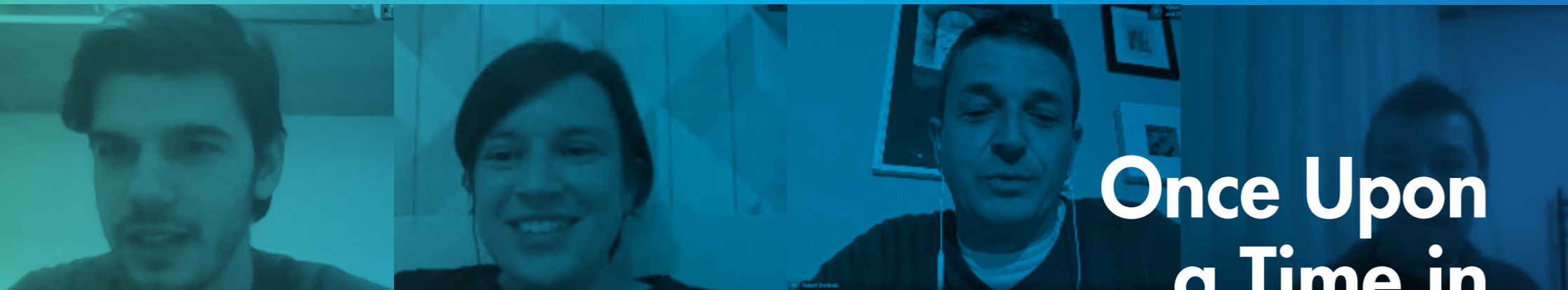
Remote workshops are a great occasion to learn new things at home

Sometimes heroes don't wear capes

Before last year's Annual Conference, one of our interns, Noel, had the opportunity to work full-time at the West Pomeranian University of Technology in Szczecin. Offers like these are not very common, so it was kind of a surprise, but due to a lot of pending work, we quickly forgot about Noel and came back to our regular tasks. But Noel didn't let us forget for long, because right after the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic, in cooperation with the research team they started to print face shields for doctors and nurses in local hospitals.

Upcoming challenges

I need to proudly say that IAESTE Poland stood up strong and firmly during the pandemic, but the biggest challenges are still ahead of us. We will need to work twice as hard to source internships in order to commit fully to fulfilling the IAESTE strategy 2025.



Once Upon a Time in IAESTE



IAESTE tales over the years



Bojan Ristovski, IAESTE Macedonia

Once upon a time in IAESTE

Lijana Dimovska
Summer Reception Officer in 2014

“As the summer comes to an end, you realize that it wasn't an obligation at all. You've made friends from all over the world and visited some of Macedonia's beauties which you haven't seen before. You understand that IAESTE helped you gain a unique experience, and that in some way, you were privileged to have that opportunity.”

Filip Stojanovski
electrical engineering

IAESTE took me to:
N. Ireland 1996, Poland 2010, Switzerland 2017

Mihajlo Brova Zikov

- » SID - Annaberg, 1993
- » SID - Athens, 1994
- » SID - Minster, 1994
- » SID - Oslo, 1995
- » GC - Athens, 1995
- » GC - Copenhagen, 1996
- » GC - Barcelona, 1997

... and many more!

An online meeting with our Alumni

During our long experience in IAESTE Macedonia, we've had some amazing success stories, which are spoken of even to this day. Most of them are about some great projects with companies and universities, but also stories from students who went on fascinating internships and experienced the mysteries of the world, to students who came to Macedonia with no expectations, but now wouldn't trade their memories of their stay for the world. But this particular success story is a quite recent one, and it's even more memorable because it was during the Covid-19 pandemic.

It all started as an idea, as a way to try and keep in touch with our IAESTE community and involve our new members in activities. The idea was to get in touch with alumni and get them to share some of their wonderful stories and moments with IAESTE. From an idea, it turned into an event, which we decided to call "Once Upon A Time

in IAESTE", and it quickly gained attention. The way this event was organised was online of course, and we had around 3 or 4 alumni who started telling their "folktales" of their IAESTE times, starting from way back in 1992 and their struggles in the beginning, to more recent periods.

After the success of the first event, apart from new members being engaged in this project, the event caught the attention of some of our other older members, as well as more alumni who wanted to share some stories and catch up with their old friends from IAESTE. In these events, we found out about pretty much the history of IAESTE Macedonia, from how it was formed, to our first attendance at the General Conference and the way everything snowballed into what we are today.

We also had a few laughs about the experience of the Summer Reception Officers from the past and their ups and downs during those summers, but of course, all of these stories had a happy ending. The most anticipated event was the one where alumni talked about their experience of their overseas internships, and it didn't disappoint. We heard about stories from places that are far away from us and their cultures were just fascinating. Everyone was captivated by the stories our alumni told and overall their experience was really amazing, but also comedic for our attention not to drift away.

This has to be one of my favourite IAESTE success stories, because for a brief moment it made us forget about the global situation we are in right now, and brought us closer together.



We keep fingers crossed for the Erasmus+ grant application submitted by Hungary, Iceland and Tunisia.

Almost a year ago we started to think about opportunities and submitting an Erasmus+ application was one of them. Slowly but surely, we gathered the necessary information and during the Annual Conference in Slovakia, we discussed it with representatives from IAESTE Tunisia and IAESTE Iceland, formed our group and started the project-planning.

During the next couple of months, we had several meetings where we discussed the main topics, shared our ideas about the national programmes and agreed on the timeline of our joint work. Through various informal indoor (workshops, discussions, brainstorming sessions, solution-making, quiz) and outdoor (trips, exploration, social ventures) activities the aim of

the project is to get to know each other, the cultural and social background of the other committees and to see how they are doing the IAESTE-related work. With this, we would like to raise awareness for open-minded and respectful attitudes, where we accept our differences and use them for the benefit of the group.

We planned the project with 25 participants (9 from Hungary, 6 from Iceland and 10 from Tunisia) who are university students between the age of 20-25. The application was officially handed in on the 7th of May, and at this moment we are still waiting for the response from judges.

Erasmus+ Application with IAESTE Tunisia and IAESTE Iceland

Working in partnership

Gábor Balatincz, Hungary

Restructuring the committee

Grenoble, France

Romain Padeloup, France



Committee volunteers (Romain, Léa, Océane, Thomas, Maxime, Sarah, Edith, Pierre)



IAESTE Summer Weekend in the south of France

IAESTE France, Grenoble Alpes committee was founded at the end of 2017. In February 2020, the organisation changed to make the committee more dynamic. The team decided to be more flexible by following an "agile model". Several projects were launched: the committee updated its website (<https://www.iaeste-france.fr/en/>), increased its influence on social networks and developed new marketing materials. The aim is to increase the committee's visibility among students, employers, and universities. Thus, new partnerships are being developed with French institutions.

IAESTE France Grenoble Alpes is working with Edith Bretin, an alumnus who was an exchange coordinator for IAESTE France from 1998 to 2003. Then, Edith remained active in IAESTE as an International Helper, then as Ombudsperson. Today, Edith has joined the French Committee as an advisor. Thus, the Grenoble Alpes Committee met at the end of June in a cottage, in the South of France, for a typical IAESTE Summer Weekend. Planned activities for the future include hikes, workshops and cohesion activities. The team is getting ready for the new exchange year, the energy is there. The committee hopes to open a second LC by the end of 2021.



Many “first-times” for a lifetime: Practical work experience, snow and hiking in Switzerland

Internship at Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI), Switzerland

Aditya Burla, India

To begin with, I had dreamed of doing an internship abroad since the first year of my bachelor’s degree. After doing a lot of research about overseas internships, I came to know about IAESTE. Instantly, I registered with my local committee at Manipal, India. That decision was probably the best decision I took in my life so far.

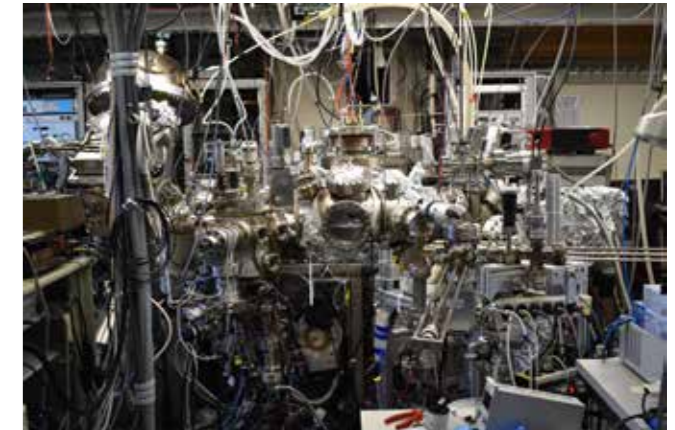
I applied to a series of internships in various European countries such as Spain, Germany, Poland and Switzerland. Unfortunately, all of them were rejected as I had no prior technical experience. This taught me that my resume doesn’t have enough weight. Hence, I started to develop my resume by doing project works and attending technical workshops and conferences.

Finally, I obtained an offer at Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI) in Switzerland, to work in the Surface Science lab on Ultra High Vacuum System. Being a Metallurgical and Materials Engineering student, I always had a very high interest on surfaces and interfaces.

My internship at PSI was the first time I had left India and was the first time I took a flight. It was overwhelming. I had done a lot of research on various things in Switzerland before my arrival which helped me a lot for the smooth transition from India. The accommodation provided in the guest house was very good, with all the required facilities. My roommate was a very friendly guy from Northern Ireland. We used to have a lot of fun watching the Champions League football together. I cooked my meals everyday which brought out my cooking skills, and many of my colleagues and friends appreciated it a lot.



What an amazing view – hiking is definitely on the bucket-list for everyone coming to Switzerland



The Multi-Chamber Ultra High Vacuum System at PSI Aditya was working with during his internship

The internship helped me a great deal personally, as it gave me the confidence to know that I can successfully live in a completely different environment. I am proud of myself for living on my own for three months in a different country and making lots of new friends across the world.

The internship gave me a new perception towards research. My colleagues, Mehdi Heydari and Markus Kropf assisted me in every possible way to understand and work independently on the multi-chamber ultra-high vacuum system.

My project guide, Dr. Thomas Jung was always present for me to clear any of my questions regarding surface science and my project report. They were all very happy to help. As Dr. Thomas Jung is also a Professor at the University of Basel, I was fortunate to meet his research group working over there. During the little time spent with them, they made everything very comfortable for me. One thing that I learnt from my colleagues at PSI and University of Basel is the way research should be directed. My entire perception towards research had changed after working with them. The major difference between

working in India and working in Switzerland is the availability of sophisticated equipment and advanced machinery which I can operate and get hands-on experience.

Culturally, I would say India and Switzerland are similar in terms of people of various ethnicities and usage of different languages. During one of the IAESTE weekends (Cheese & Choc Weekend) I had the opportunity to visit the Cailler Chocolate Factory at Broc and a traditional Swiss cheese factory in Gruyeres. The visit brought me closer to the Swiss culture and it was also the first time I had the Cheese Fondue.

My favourite weekend was the Zermatt weekend. I was so excited to be there as it was my first experience with snow. Though the hikes were very difficult (six hours) the views from the top were worth it. Having a bite of Toblerone while enjoying the view of the mighty Matterhorn was simply astounding. During my stay for three months in Switzerland I had been on around six hikes. For a person who had never been hiking, this is definitely a big thing.

Switzerland and India are different in many ways. One can travel from St. Gallen to Geneva in 4 hours (i.e. almost from the eastern to the western part of Switzerland) whereas during this drive in India, I would only reach the next major city, being still in the same state (yes, India is very huge compared to Switzerland). I am very much used to the bustling cities with a lot of vehicles and people. However, when I arrived at PSI it was very silent and calm. I really like the pollution free and peaceful life at the guesthouse. It was a bit of a



Experience for a lifetime: first time inside the Glacier Palace and the feeling of snow

struggle during the initial days to adjust to the timings as we have the same daytime throughout the year. Experiencing longer days and having dinner before sunset was a new experience. After reaching India the things that I missed the most are the amazing views of Switzerland and the calmness that I experienced in the Guest house.

I must say that Swiss people and other friends from IAESTE have been very lovely and supportive to me throughout my internship. IAESTE helped me in every aspect of my internship. E.g. At the beginning I had a problem with the insurance company. I was worried and I had approached the IAESTE team for help. Though this might not be a huge issue, being a person from a different part of the world, this meant a lot of mental stress for me. IAESTE Switzerland acted timely and resolved the problem within a few days.

I will definitely suggest anyone to try out IAESTE internships as they are paid, and the team provides great support during the internship. My experience was simply excellent.

To conclude I would like to say to all the students, you should try to get an IAESTE internship - you never know what experience awaits you. So, come to IAESTE to work, to experience and to discover.

greiner
packaging

Not Just Pretty®
Packaging

Dungannon, N.Ireland

Transform
your packaging
into a work
of art
IAESTE Northern Ireland



Members of IAESTE NI showcasing the beauty of Belfast from Cave Hill to our trainees

Greiner Packaging is a relative newcomer to the IAESTE family in Northern Ireland, serving as the sole Greiner site within both the UK and island of Ireland, its site located in the town of Dungannon serves as a key player within both the British and Irish dairy industries. Chances are if you take a stroll down any supermarket in the country you will find many of their products on their shelves.

To this day Greiner remains a family-owned company, which has been one of the key components to its success over the years, operating in over 34 countries, ranging from Austria to Thailand. Greiner has sites at 140 locations, with over 10,700 employees worldwide. Not only an expert in the packaging sector, but Greiner also has divisions called Greiner Foam, Greiner Bio-one (biotechnology, diagnostic and pharmaceutical industries) and Greiner extrusion, which all contribute to its 1.6 Billion annual revenue.

In September 2018, shortly after returning from a 12-week IAESTE internship at Wanhua Chemical Group in Yantai China, Paddy Martin, a former LC president of the NI IAESTE Local Committee returned home to begin a 12-month placement at Greiner Dungannon, which he had secured via video call while still in China. When asked about his experiences Paddy told us:

"I've always felt that new experiences and venturing outside your comfort zone are the only way to develop new skills and for me, IAESTE gave me the opportunity and nudge I needed. IAESTE promised paid, international work experience, but, I gained so much more than I ever expected, from learning more about the who I was as a person and what motivates me, to what I want from a future career. I wouldn't be surprised if having IAESTE on my CV was what gave me the edge when applying to Greiner. While completing my

year at Greiner, I also served as an active local committee member and actively encouraged Greiner to see what all the fuss was about when it came to IAESTE and sure enough in August 2019, Vanessa Mathew was the successful candidate to be employed as Engineering placement student at Greiner through the IAESTE exchange.

Naturally, I felt that Greiner and IAESTE were perfect for each other, both have strong values and a real drive to make a positive impact in what can sometimes seem a very bleak world. Even as I write this, IAESTE has been helping many NI students find work offers for the year ahead after many companies were forced to retract placement offers for NI students. In the same vein, Greiner has been donating much welcomed and needed supplies to both key workers and areas of Northern Ireland most affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Where some people might only see a plastic packaging company,

to me Greiner is so much more, they have not only invested in me, helping me gain new skills and experience, but they have also ticked almost all of my wish list when it comes to a future career. . . . well, I guess thinking I could jump from intern to CEO right away was a bit unrealistic.

On a more serious note, it is hugely satisfying and fulfilling to know that I work supporting those who are helping to reduce plastic pollution through the creation of more and more innovative and sustainably made packaging. In the last year alone, Greiner has led the way in helping its customers switch from packaging made from polystyrene to alternatives made from polypropylene or PET as part of efforts for companies to become more sustainable. When Greiner offered me the opportunity to remain employed around my studies in their New Product Development Department I jumped at the chance.



Vanessa enjoying one of Northern Ireland many natural beauty spots at White Rocks beach Portrush

I can honestly say I never thought it possible to get so excited by a plastic pot but to see a novel concept taken from an idea to finished product in a matter of months is really what engineering is all about."

During the summer of 2019, Vanessa Mathew had completed her very first IAESTE internship with Queen's University Belfast in machine learning. She fell in love with Northern Ireland's people, culture and nature, deciding to take a leap of faith and applied for another IAESTE internship and this time it was with Greiner Packaging, Dungannon. When asked about her experience in Greiner, Vanessa told us:

"It was definitely a new and great experience of adapting to the work ethics and culture within a Northern Ireland company. People are friendly and ready to help as well as the depth and experience that individuals had in respect to their roles just goes to show that they not only talk the talk but also walk the walk. The company is also invested in their employees and this shows through continuous improvement and management training, excellent apprenticeships programme, as well as an open line of communication between employees and upper management, to name a few. Greiner is keen on uplifting its employees to be key innovators and problem solvers and for me, that has been one of the most important lessons learnt



Greiner Packaging is a family-owned company, which has been one of the key components to its success over the years. It operates in over 34 countries, ranging from Austria to Thailand. Greiner has sites at 140 locations, with over 10,700 employees worldwide.

here. Every day brings a different challenge, and this keeps me motivated to try to think out of the box."

IAESTE NI would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our partner companies and institutions like Greiner, with whom we hope that through connections such as Vanessa and Paddy we create the foundations for a deep and long-lasting friendship with the company.



The local committee showing off one of the many outdoor activities available in NI during our annual retreat

Keep your eyes peeled, IAESTE NI has continued to grow from strength-to-strength over subsequent years, we are deeply committed to providing only the best for our partner companies and institutions, our outgoing interns from Northern Ireland and indeed all of our incoming students from further afield.



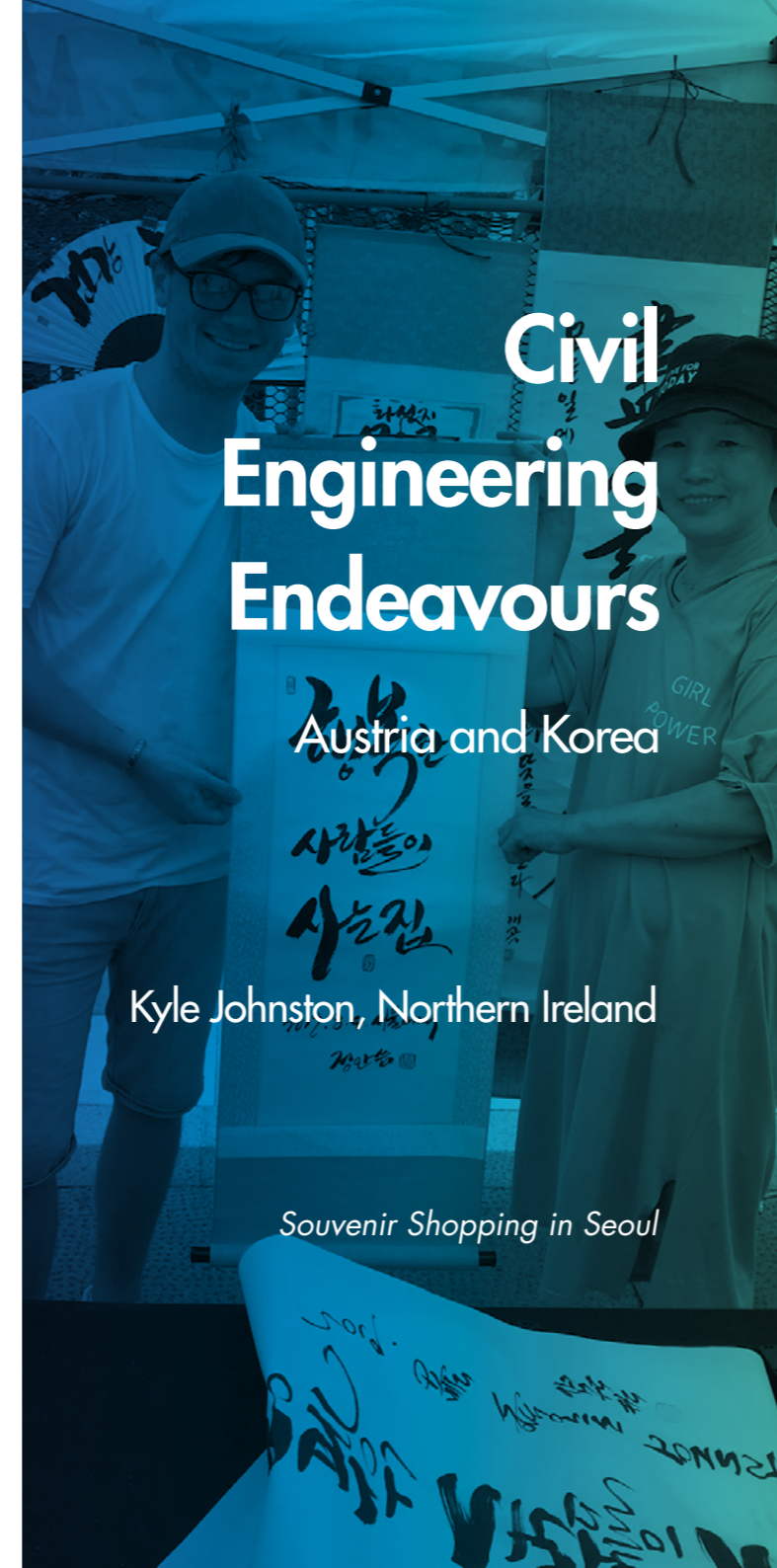
Workshop Seminar Fun in Gmunden, Austria

My name is Kyle Johnston and I come from Belfast, Northern Ireland. Recently I was awarded a Master of Engineering in Civil Engineering with First Class Honours from Ulster University located in Belfast. However, I believe this achievement would not have been possible had I not embarked on two successful IAESTE Internships abroad in Vienna, Austria and Daejeon, South Korea. Each of these internships provided me with an insight into work life in two unique parts of the world and provided me with the work ethic which is required to succeed and university.



My Professor and Mentor During My Time in South Korea

During my time in Vienna I worked at the Technical University of Vienna where I took up a student research role. This role included research into topics such as how streetscapes and pedestrianisation has shaped the city of Vienna from the 1850s to present and barriers to how Austrian public transport can be adapted and modified to be more user friendly to those with limitations. As a Civil Engineer who is particularly interested in the Highways and Transportation sector, this internship was perfect for me and I learned a lot during my three month stay. Fortunately, it wasn't all work work work during my time



Civil Engineering Endeavours

Austria and Korea

Kyle Johnston, Northern Ireland

Souvenir Shopping in Seoul

in Vienna as I was lucky enough to embark on a work-related trip to Gmunden (a town in upper Austria) – the views were spectacular, and it was great to socialise with my new work colleagues outside of the office.

Thankfully, my IAESTE journey did not stop there in Austria and the following summer I was given the opportunity to travel to Daejeon, South Korea. During this internship, I was introduced to a seismic data processing laboratory and tasked with processing seismic data to create high-quality subsurface images. Although these tasks were closely linked with Petroleum Engineering, I had recently completed my bachelor's in civil engineering and was up for the challenge of a new discipline. I worked hard and learnt a lot during my time in South Korea.

The whole experience in South Korea was unforgettable. From the kind gentleman from IAESTE Korea who made me feel comfortable

after 30 hours of travelling from Dublin, to my mentor and professor who provided me with all immediate amenities – I will never forget their kindness. Having never visited Asia before, working and living in South Korea is something a boy from Belfast doesn't get the opportunity to do so often so I decided to make the most of the experience. My accommodation was on-campus, although very basic it provided me with everything that I could have wanted with many amazing food restaurants within a 15 minutes bus ride. On my internship, I met a lot of other amazing interns and friends from across the globe, including Russia, India, the Philippines, Malta and Greece. A special mention Karl (Malta) and Stelios (Greece), who undoubtedly made the whole South Korean a lot more fun as we visited many places on weekends including Seoul, Busan and Jeju Island.



Kyle together with Karl (Malta) and Stelios (Greece), who made the whole South Korean a lot more fun for him.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank IAESTE and Mary Mallon of the British Council whose patience and excellent guidance has allowed many students from Ulster University and Queens University Belfast to embark life-changing opportunities. Personally, these experiences have helped develop my passion for Engineering and achieve my full potential at University.



The IAESTE committee of Stockholm Sweden year 1987

Still cooking!

Cecilia

*Soup to start with - Nina, Kjell, Katalin
and Stefan in the year 2002*

Back in the Summer of the year 1987, we were a group of students from the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) who organised the welcome for engineering students coming to Stockholm in Sweden. The students came for jobs and internships which were provided and shared through IAESTE.

We ensured that there were lots of activities in order to meet both local and foreign IAESTE students, find new friends and experience the best of Stockholm. We organised weekend trips for sailing in the archipelago, canoeing on some smaller lakes and weekends focusing on tourism in Stockholm. To the Stockholm weekends, we also invited the IAESTE students based in Oslo, Helsinki and Copenhagen. We organised weekly evenings to drink beer and several parties. One big party was the Swedish traditional midSummer's eve party in the Royal Institute of Technology's summer lodge located in the archipelago. For the party, we expected that about 80 persons would come and we were very surprised, but happy when 130 showed up. One student even brought his mother!

We in the committee continued to support IAESTE and some of us were in the last years of the 1980:s able to travel and work abroad through IAESTE or other organisations.



Main course – Cecilia, Katalin, Helena and Nina in the year 1994

- Inger was two months in Vienna in Austria and worked at ÖMV, an oil refinery site.
- Stefan was two months in Czechoslovakia and worked at the University in Ostrava.
- Nina was two months at Clarkson University, New York state, US and worked with research in colloidal chemistry.
- Cecilia was four months in Brazil and worked at the university in Campinas (UniCamp) with environmental research. She also helped out at the IAESTE exchange conference held in Sao Paulo 1990.

As a team, we had a lot of fun and in the early 1990:s when we all had finished our studies, we decided to continue to meet on a regular basis. We



Dessert – Tommie, Inger, Anders, Cecilia, Kjell and Nina in the year 2017

decided to cook gourmet dinners together and since then - for more than 30 years - we have met every two to three months to cook. Many menus have been inspired by our visits abroad. The only rule is that it must be a three-course dinner with dishes we have never cooked before.

...and yes, our cooking skills have improved several levels since we started!

Best wishes from

The IAESTE Committee of Stockholm 1987

Nina, Inger, Katalin, Helena, Stefan and Cecilia



IAESTE family: mother, son and dad who have been on IAESTE internships.

An IAESTE family!

When we invited our alumni from many years past to share their IAESTE stories, we weren't quite expecting to learn of something so life-changing, and cross-generational. In 1979, Spanish student, Virginia Cortés Tarancón travelled to Germany for her internship, not knowing that she would meet her future husband, also an IAESTE intern from Italy!, and even more impressive, that some 40 years later, her son, Mario Musicò Cortés would also become an IAESTE intern. We certainly haven't heard of such an IAESTE related family before!

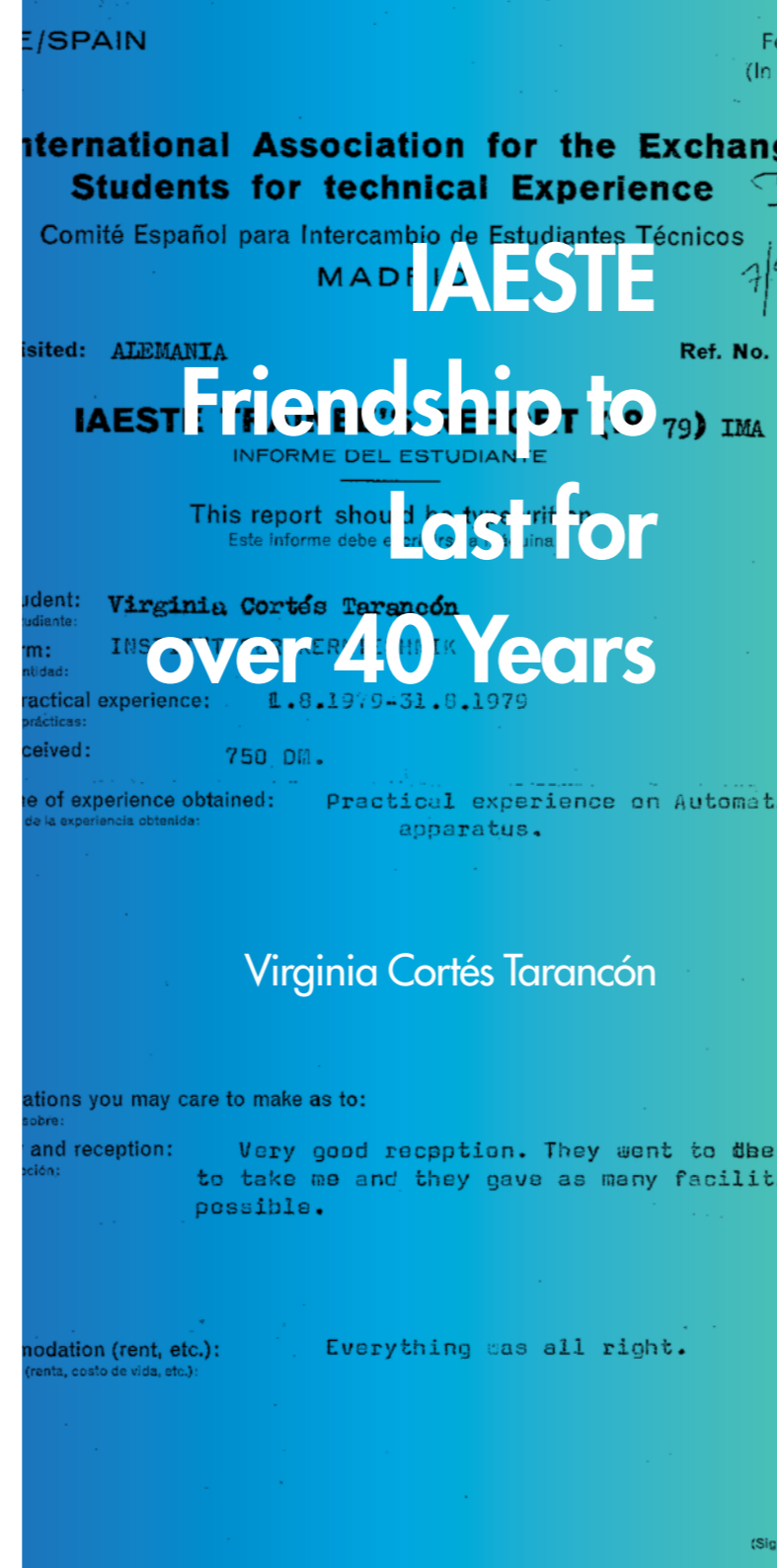
Mario has done IAESTE internships in Poland, 2017, Turkey 2019 and lastly at Electrolux, Italy, in 2019. In fact, he has just been permanently employed by Electrolux after a successful year interning for them. Let's hope that one day, Mario has children and then too can undertake an IAESTE internship!



Was Mario inspired by his parents, who met during IAESTE internship?

I thought that I could learn German in the same way as I learnt English: 1-year of autonomous studying + 1 month of local practice. And at the same time, I could have some hands-on practice in the laboratory at the prestigious Institut für KernTechnik in Western Berlin (before the Wall was removed and Germany reunified). I had just finished my 4th year of 6-year industrial engineering studies at ETSIM (Industrial Engineering School of Polytechnic University of Madrid) and I was in charge of IAESTE at that School for the third year... But nothing happened as expected. It was the summer of 1979.

I arrived late to the student residence and it was Saturday, so the person at the reception left just after giving me the key for my room. In August, the residence was almost empty with no German students, but other students stayed, from Mali, Turkey, Bolivia, Egypt, ... I was unable to find the toilets for girls, till a Japanese guy explained that the only bathroom was common for men and women and then I discovered that showers had no doors or curtains...! The guy from



IAESTE Friendship to Last for over 40 Years

Virginia Cortés Tarancón

Bolivia was leaving and he gave me his cutlery and some good advice and in the supermarket I met a Spanish-looking guy that happened to be Italian. There were very few women at the student residence, basically a Yugoslavian and myself. During my stage, I never spoke German, not even at work, where everybody managed communication in English.

It was a very interesting month, because I could work with very new electronic equipment and because Berlin was really interesting at that time. It was the time when the Brandenburg could only be seen from 500 meters away standing over a platform, when civilians could only reach Eastern Berlin through the subway after an exhaustive checking (Checkpoint Charlie was used only for special military/espionage reasons), when the only expansive activity for Berliners was swimming at the near Wannsee lake (everything else was more than 300 kms away in Western Germany because a huge fence surrounded the city and the access corridor). Berlin was full of foreign students because they were strongly welcomed and even invited, the reason being that German students felt that the city experience was very distressing because of isolation and only those Germans who

were pacifists were studying at Berlin University (they were relieved from military duties if studying in Berlin). It was the time when you could go out every night to a different place in Berlin with the Subway or S-train and so did I with friends and the very special Italian friend. We promised to come back to Berlin in 2000 if we were together by then, but that was 21 years ahead ...

We could not meet again as we planned later that year in September, because I was heading to Montecarlo-Monaco and he went to Munich (Germany) because in Italian is called "Monaco". We could not meet the next Christmas in Padua where he was studying, because he was in the hospital. But we finally met some days in the summer of 1980 when I was on the way to Athens for a second IAESTE internship and stopped at Bologna train station (curiously, just 1 hour before the terrorist attack that killed more than 85 people). We met again during Easter 1981 near Milan where he was then working, and then he invited me to visit his parents in Sicily. We married in August that same year, less than one month after I finished graduation. We came back several times to Berlin, especially in 2000, but the ALDI supermarket where we met was not there anymore...



Article was written in the summer of 2020 by Virginia (Mario's mum), with the IAESTE Italian 'friend' recovering from near-death Covid-19 experience.

After 40 years exactly, that is, in the summer 2019, that 'friendship' that started thanks to IAESTE is still alive and our son finished the same Industrial Engineering bachelor's in the same University as me and he has revived the IAESTE delegation in our faculty, also doing stages in Warsaw, then Istanbul and now in Italy as part of the Electrolux's Global Engineering Program that has just recently launched with IAESTE as worldwide collaboration.

Virginia Cortés Tarancón.



Research into depositing nanoparticles on carbon fibre reinforced polymers at EMPA

The year I spent in Switzerland was the best in my life yet. Working as an intern in EMPA, my research focused on depositing nanoparticles on carbon fibre reinforced polymers in order to make a stronger material. Drawing from my background as a Chemistry student, as well as exploring the field of materials science made this internship challenging and rewarding. Knowing that the materials I've researched could be used in the future, in structures ranging from aeroplanes to wind turbines brought tangible relevance to the work I did.

IAESTE in Switzerland has the trademark Swiss quality, it is exceptionally strong and well-organised. The weekends organised throughout the year took full advantage of the gorgeous backdrops and scenic cities present



Gorgeous backdrops and scenic cities

in Switzerland. Furthermore, these trips proved to be great bonding experiences with the other interns spread throughout the country, with LC Zurich, in particular, having weekly meetups to keep in touch on a regular basis.

I have made friends for life and had experiences I will never forget doing my internship. I will forever be in debt to IAESTE for giving this chance and I hope to give back in the future by playing a role in the Northern Irish LC back home.

Unforgettable Experiences

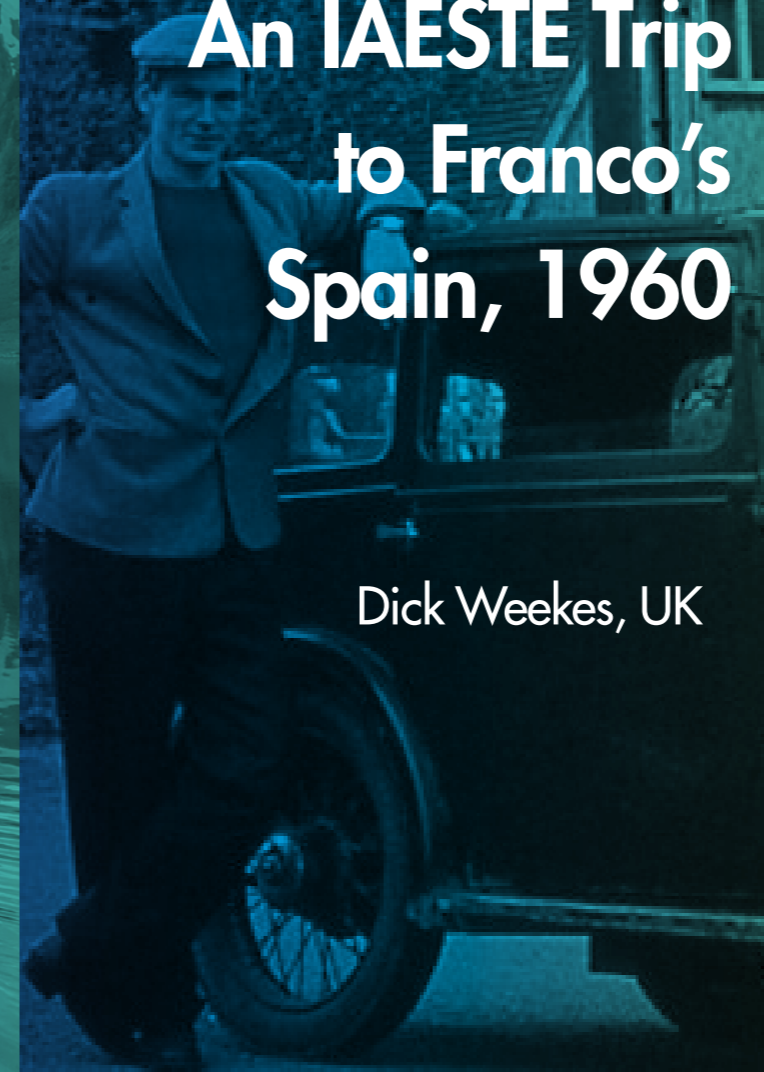
Friends for life

Anwin Robin, UK



An IAESTE Trip to Franco's Spain, 1960

Dick Weekes, UK



Long long trail.

Towards the end of my second year in the Metallurgy Department of the University College, Swansea I needed summer work in the Metals industry and through IAESTE I was pleased to be accepted for a position in the Steelworks of Patricio Echeverria in Legazpia, northern Spain.

I was the owner of a well-proven 1933 Morris Minor so settled on that as my transport. My sleeping arrangements for the journey were also taken care of by temporarily removing the passenger seat, a sleeping platform then placed my head in the back of the car and my feet cosily under the dashboard. An impressive array of documents had to be gathered, customs papers, an international driving licence, insurance green card and a bail bond as one was likely to be locked up if involved in an accident in Spain. More comforting were emergency traveller's cheques provided by the RAC and denominated in Swiss Francs.

I was wise to leave home that summer. I was in trouble in University having spent too much time on the Student Rag Week charity fundraising activities and the resulting, fortunately temporary, exclusion had caused frostiness at home. Happily, three months later my family was pleased to see my safe return.

My adventure really started at Dover and it was a thrill to be ushered onto the ferry. I have crossed the Channel many times since then but that first view of Calais Town Hall coming up out of the sea remains a special memory. I rattled out of Calais in good style, negotiating my first anti-clockwise roundabout and I put a good few miles under my wheels before camping for the first night, finding time to write a postcard home from 'Somewhere in France'.

Thinking my inexperience in French city driving would get me into trouble I skirted Paris to the west and arriving at Le Mans I drove down the famous



San Sebastian sign.

Mulsanne Straight, reliving at a distinctly slower pace the exploits of the heroes in the 24 hour races. Then on to Tours where an 'Interdit aux Forains' sign at a campsite bothered me for a while until I worked out that, despite the appearance of my vehicle, I would not be expelled for being a Gypsy. On then, following the route of many early motoring pioneers, the road from Paris to Bordeaux.

I had allowed a week to get from Calais to Spain and was well ahead of schedule so diverted through the thickly forested Landes country to Arcachon on the coast. There, I treated myself to lunch in a bistro but a sign 'free bottle of wine with every meal' necessitated a long walk afterwards. Ending up in Biarritz I put up at the Camping Chambre d'Amour, very inappropriately named as far as I and my sleeping arrangements were concerned! A day or so later on, I went again, enjoying the brilliance of the southern sun at St Jean de Luz and finally reaching the frontier at Irun. Here the police and customs officers seemed to me to be very relaxed, despite their bristling revolvers, and let me into Spain with little formality. Then, via San Sebastian to my destination in the hills, the industrial town of Legazpia.

My lodgings were in a local bar, the Toki Alai, Good Place in Basque and my hosts were a pleasant couple, helped by their three daughters. Fortunately, the eldest daughter Maria Angeles, spoke a little French as I had gone to Spain speaking no Spanish but thinking that I would not be far over the border with France and that French would be understood. Very wrong! The isolation of Spain brought about by Franco since 1938 was almost complete. In fact, there was a rueful local saying 'Africa begins at the Pyrenees' and later when I unwisely produced a travel booklet my friends were indignant to see a map in it which cut off the whole Iberian peninsula. 'There you are, Africa begins at the Pyrenees!'

The works had an interesting background. It had been founded by one man, a blacksmith, Patricio Echeverria, early in the 20th century and by his hard work and entrepreneurial drive it had grown into a full-blown steelworks making raw steel in arc furnaces and turning out an impressive range of alloys for tool making on-site and supply elsewhere as semi-finished products. Don Patricio, the founder had retired but his son, Don Jose, had been to Sheffield University in the 1920s and was well disposed towards Britain, doubtless accounting for the IAESTE connection.

My colleagues at the Steelworks metallurgical laboratory were very welcoming and I was soon involved in breaking tensile test pieces and learning to count very rapidly in Spanish. A tour of the works showed intense activity with many cranes transporting bundles of steel but I was warned not to go to the Works unaccompanied, 'Muy peligroso', very dangerous. This was brought home to me when the laboratory had to test chain slings, not made by Echeverria, which snapped at well below the American proof test standards and the wisdom of the Muy Peligroso advice was emphasised.

The Bar Toki Alai served as a staff canteen with a good local menu, washed down by glasses of local red wine at a peseta a glass, about a penny ha'penny in old money. I found this wine horrid and I took to ordering a bottle of beer at about four pesetas. I soon found though that I was offending etiquette on two counts, firstly four pesetas was considered wildly extravagant and secondly, the bottle should be decanted into three or four glasses and shared with one's friends.

Colleagues would also gather at the Toki Alai in the evenings and my English lessons became popular. My star pupil, Ignacio, found his vocabulary unexpectedly increased through a study of table cutlery and mispronunciation of 'Fork' which, when explained, set him laughing helplessly with that Spanish laugh from the back of the throat which denotes appreciation of something a bit rude. Ignacio also involved me in more linguistic embarrassment by taking me home to meet his wife who greeted me formally with many 'Mucho Gustos'. My phrasebook studies deserted me, such formality was unknown in the Toki Alai and an instant row broke out between man and wife which I learned later was on the lines of 'What are you teaching this boy in that steelworks, he's got no manners at all!'

It was still the custom for the young people of the town to promenade in groups segregated by gender up and down the pavements on opposite sides of the road on fine evenings. Any departure from this was seen as a commitment so when I was seen speaking more than once to a French girl I was cornered in the Toki Alai by Maria Angeles, the eldest daughter who hissed at me in Spanish 'Do you have a fiance in England' No, I replied. 'Well, do you have a fiance in Legazpia?' No, again. 'What about Elena?'



Toki Alai with workmates.

Oops, the end of a beautiful friendship!

Every local village held its own fiesta and my friends would enlist me and my car as transport. Another outing took us to a Txistulari festival. The Txistul is an instrument similar to an English eighteenth-century fife and drum. This had previously been banned by Franco as a symbol of Basque unity but was just beginning to be permitted again and here, my friends said, was an unmissable event, providing I would drive them there. The din of perhaps a hundred of these instruments in a sports hall was unbelievable, however, my friends enjoyed the Basque atmosphere, perhaps more than the music. This trip resulted though in a visit from the town taxi proprietor who complained that I was pinching his business. The fact that my Morris was already becoming a museum piece didn't matter, in his eyes, I was a wealthy young sprig who could well afford to use the town's taxi service!

The annual works shutdown coincided with my visit so other plans were required but first I had to approach the works cashier for money. Pocket money was promised under the IAESTE scheme but so far nothing had materialised. 'I am the English student and I need money' I said. He looked a little surprised but handed over twenty or thirty pounds worth of pesetas. This wasn't bad as it would be four or five hundred pounds at present values. I knew by then that the Spanish country roads would be hard on the Morris but I wanted to get to the Mediterranean so headed back into France and crossed the neck of the peninsula, ending up in Collioure, a fishing village not far from the Spanish border.

Collioure had long been a refuge for artists, not least Picasso who had left, probably now priceless, cartoons as gifts to local bars. Before long



Echeverria advert.

I met two present-day artists, Robert and Andre. Robert had arrived conventionally in Collioure by rail but Andre was spending the summer travelling from Belgium by donkey and cart and meeting, so he said, many lonely housewives on his travels. Tragically in Collioure, his donkey had eaten metaldehyde fuel tablets and died. He was stranded there, living in a hut in an orchard, his cart parked forlornly with its shafts in the air and his donkey represented by a large heap of earth over its grave; a new donkey was required as Andre planned to continue his journey to Gibraltar. Funds were urgently needed, Andre and Robert had a profitable sideline dashing off paintings of Collioure and selling them to holidaymakers. My artistic talents being non-existent, I was enlisted to sell newspapers, I can still hear myself croaking 'Le Midi Libre' on my rounds. Sadly I had to leave before Andre did but I am sure his charm got him into many more adventures before the summer ended.



Legazpia – Fiesta time.

On my return journey to Legazpia I wanted to see some of the towns of the Pyrenean foothills. I left Collioure early and rolled into Perpignan where I met an unfriendly Gendarme who blew his whistle at me and accused me of passing a red light, eyeing my car suspiciously. 'Papers' he demanded. He thumbed through my passport. 'Hm, twenty years old, when you are twenty years old you must be very careful. Now clear off!' Which I did, grateful for his paternal advice. My route took in the hill towns of Quillan and Puivert, here roadside signs consoled me with 'Encore un effort'. On to Foix and out of the hills to Pau. The back to Biarritz, San Sebastian and Legazpia.



Legazpia Echeverria steelworks.



Collioure, Me with Christine, Robert, Andre.

Another month went by and soon it was time to leave. I loaded my car up and as I said farewell one of the Toki Alai daughters asked 'When will you return to Legazpia?'. I said 'Otro ano', another year, but she thought I said 'Ocho anos', eight years. She repeated 'Ocho anos' in amazement and I drove down the street for the last time thinking 'Eight years, where will I be by then'. 1968 seemed impossibly

distant, in fact, my future was predictable in a way, a steady job, nice wife, two little children, difficult to imagine though in 1960 at twenty years old.

I travelled back via Paris, putting up in the Camping Bois de Boulogne and ventured up to the centre in the car, negotiating the Arc de Triomphe, scary 60 years ago and surely much worse now. I arrived home to a more welcoming atmosphere and sat down to one of my Mother's ample teas. My 11-year-old brother came in and plonked himself down at the table, ignoring me and finally, my Mother said brightly 'Richard's home'. My brother looked up from his tea. 'Where's he been' was all he said.

My brother might have been unimpressed by my trip but in fact, it was a most valuable experience, made possible by IAESTE. I matured a little, re-sat my second-year exams and completed my degree. Nearly forty years of interesting jobs in the South Wales steel industry followed, mostly technical and managerial in works environments which, I came to realise, suited me better than gleaming laboratories. In retirement, I help restore steam locomotives at my local heritage railway and still have my faithful 1933 Morris. All in all, at 80 I am having an interesting life towards which my Spanish experience made a significant contribution, Thank you, IAESTE!



Biarritz with car.



Collioure today (Wikipedia).



IAESTE Organisation

General Conference

The General Conference possesses full power to take formal decisions for the fulfilment of the Aims and approves the budget and regulations of the Association. It is comprised of one delegate from each Full Member country and it elects the President, the Board, meeting every year in January. The General Conference also admits new Members of the Association.

Board

The Board implements the Association’s policy and decisions approved by the General Conference, initiates activities supporting the Association’s policy in general and provides strategic direction to the Association. The Board is composed of five members. It is composed of the President and four members. The Board elects from the four members one as Secretary and one as Treasurer.

- **President:** elected by the Members to convene and chair the board meeting. The President represents the Association at the international level.
- **Secretary:** responsible at the higher directive level for the international administration of the Association, and acts as the active conduit for communication and custodian of the proceedings of the Association.
- **Treasurer:** responsible for the finances of the Association.

National Committee

National Committees represent the Member countries and are composed of persons representing academic, industrial and student interests. National Committees are responsible for administration of the IAESTE exchange programme.



Local Committee

Local Committees represents the national committee throughout the country. Usually they are located at universities and are run by volunteers.

Support Team

The Support Team is a team of people working for IAESTE on an international level with the target to implement (under the supervision of the Board) the strategic direction provided by the General Conference. The team is led by the Head of Operations. This includes carrying out day-to-day business, fostering knowledge sharing between members of the association and creating fundraising opportunities for IAESTE A.s.b.l. Besides these general tasks all team members have their own area of responsibility, where they focus on developing new concepts for the further development of our association.

ITS: Internet Technology Services Team

The IAESTE Internet Technology Services Team, ITS, provides IT services for IAESTE. Anything surrounding the Exchange Platform, IAESTE internet domains and emails is the responsibility of the ITS.

Ombudsperson

The function of the Ombudsperson is to be an impartial mediator between a student or group of students who feel they have been disadvantaged by a person or Organisation representing IAESTE.

Who is Who: IAESTE Organisation



IAESTE Board & Support Team (from the left), Mark Feichtinger, Valentina Carrasco Rosales, Bruce Wicks, Kristýna Šimková, Thomas Faltner, Olga Legacka, Marcin Jaworski, prof. Karunakar Kottegar, Kushagra Sharma.

Board Members

- Thomas Faltner, IAESTE President, IAESTE Austria
- Dr. Karunakar Kotegar, Board Member and Secretary, IAESTE India
- Kristýna Šimková, Board Member and Treasurer, IAESTE Czech Republic
- Marcin Jaworski, Board Member, IAESTE Poland
- Mark Feichtinger, Board Member, IAESTE Austria

Representatives of the Board to the UN and its Agencies

- DPI/UN – New York – Dr. Pulat Pulatov, Mr. Thomas Faltner
- ECOSOC – New York – Dr. Pulat Pulatov, Mr. Thomas Faltner
- UNIDO – Vienna – Mr. Thomas Faltner, Mr. Mark Feichtinger
- World Bank – Washington – Mr. Thomas Faltner
- OECD – Paris – Mr. Thomas Faltner
- European Union – Mr. Thomas Faltner, Mr. Mark Feichtinger
- UNESCO – Paris – Mrs. Olga Legacka
- UN in Geneva – Mrs. Kristýna Šimková

Ombudsperson

Elsa van der Kooi

Internal Auditors

- Dan Ewert, IAESTE USA
- Anders Fredén, IAESTE Sweden

Support Team

- Bruce Wicks, Marketing, Fundraising & Relations Manager
- Kushagra Sharma, IT Manager
- Olga Legacka, Head of Operations
- Valentina Carrasco Rosales, Exchange Quality Manager

Good reasons to host IAESTE trainees



Broaden your horizons. IAEESTE trainees bring an international dimension to the workplace as well as fresh ideas and different, often innovative perspectives. IAEESTE trainees are ideally placed to carry on short-term projects and to help to develop new business opportunities overseas.



Strengthen the intercultural competencies of your team. Your employees will gain intercultural communication skills, be more eager to use foreign languages and become more open to others



Expand your business outreach. Hosting a foreign trainee is an excellent opportunity to learn about foreign markets and the technological expertise of other countries. IAEESTE is a great way to build contacts and cultural links, as well as ambassadors for your company. You will become part of the international, 3000+ community of IAEESTE employers.



Contribute to society by supporting the IAEESTE mission to promote international understanding. Hosting foreign trainees can contribute to your social responsibility strategy (CSR). You are supporting foreign youth by creating an opportunity for them to gain valuable work experience, and also you create a chance for your local student to go abroad in exchange.



Highly skilled trainees with STEAM educational backgrounds. We offer access to a huge pool of Science, Engineering and Applied Arts students and recent graduates in over 87 countries and 1000+ universities.



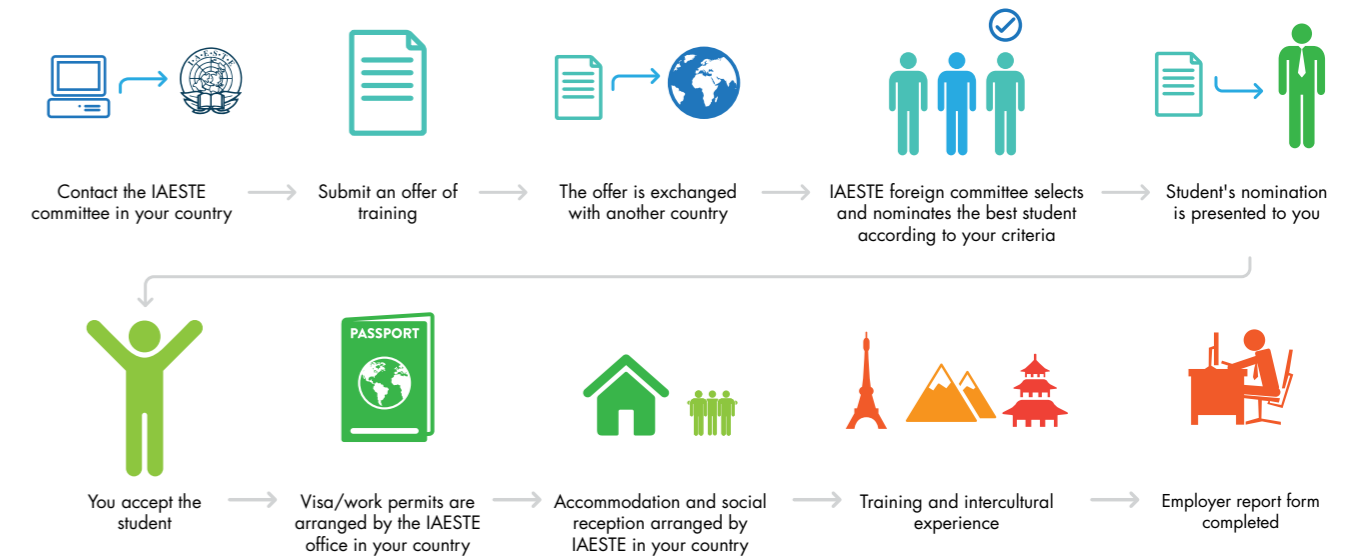
Hassle-free recruitment procedure. Students are carefully selected by the IAEESTE staff in the sending country, verified by the receiving IAEESTE committee and presented to you as candidates in the third step. Once a student is accepted, IAEESTE will provide the necessary expertise in navigating necessary visa/work authorisation and support/arrange accommodation as well as take care of the social integration in your country.



Why to receive international trainees

How to receive international trainees

We are IAEESTE



IAEESTE exchange programme is

- **Business oriented:** IAEESTE trainees are ideally placed to carry out short-term projects and to help develop new business opportunities overseas.
- **Intercultural experience:** IAEESTE students bring an international dimension to the workplace as well as fresh ideas and different, often innovative perspectives. Your employees can and will develop people management and intercultural communication skills.
- **Impact on the society & young generation:** by offering an IAEESTE placement to a foreign student, you also give a student in your own country an opportunity to go abroad and acquire knowledge of other cultures and levels of technology.

Employer led and hassle-free process - who does what?

Employer

- Employer stipulates criteria such as: subject area; specialisation; level of study; technical experience, language requirements and duration.
- Employer provides a plan for the traineeship and supervision during the traineeship
- Employers are expected to pay students a wage sufficient to cover their cost of living during the actual training periods. Students must

be insured against accidents and illness and they also pay their own travel costs.

- Evaluation of the training at the end of the placement. (Employer's feedback report).

IAEESTE

- Students are selected according to employers' requirements through a stringent, 3-tier selection process from a pool of over 1000 universities worldwide
- IAEESTE in your country will handle all the paperwork entailed in the exchange procedures such as:
 - Work permit, visa and tax card if required
 - Trainee's accommodation
 - Valid insurance covering the period of their placement
 - Travel arrangements
 - Reception on arrival and an organised programme of events during the traineeship itself
 - Keep the employer informed of ongoing matters
- Letting IAEESTE take care of the details will leave you hassle-free to get the most out of the traineeship, while your intern will be socially integrated in your country.

Our partners:

Electrolux: Electrolux shapes living for the better by reinventing taste, care and wellbeing experiences, making life more enjoyable and sustainable for millions of people.

IAESTE works with Electrolux to provide them with interns for their Global Engineer Programme. We provide a central contact point and liaise with our member countries to provide only the best students. We then support the students through the application process and through their internship. It is a relatively new partnership but we are delighted that three IAESTE trainees will be joining the Electrolux programme this year.



Mondi: Mond is an international packaging and paper Group, employing 26,000 people in production facilities across 31 countries. In 2013, Mond had revenues of €6.5 billion and a return on capital employed (ROCE) of 15.3%.

Mondi have been supporting IAESTE for many years, both internationally and on a national level. We help them to promote their vacancies, using our pool of talented members to help find the right applicants. We also promote the Mond brand through our website and social media.

Partnering with IAESTE means reaching the right people for your business

Companies play an essential role in the IAESTE programme by providing internship opportunities to foreign students. We also partner with companies to help them in other areas through our Career Partners programme.

Because of our vast network of students and alumni, we can provide access to targeted groups of young people and professionals. We also only partner with companies whose product or service complements our existing services to students or alumni.

Some of the areas in which we work with partners include:

Global recruitment – Helping to find the right people for permanent jobs

Global Internship programmes – Acting as a hub and single point of contact for companies that wish to find interns for their offices in different countries

Product promotion – Promoting relevant products, services and opportunities to our large network via our monthly newsletters, social media and events

Reaching the right people nationally, or globally, can be a difficult task. Partnering with IAESTE means accessing switched-on, skilled, motivated, experienced people from all over the world.

If you're interested in partnering with us, drop us an email to info@iaeste.org

Carrer Partners

Supporting our mission has never been easier

Since its inception in 1948, IAESTE has been a non-profit organisation with the sole aim of helping young people around the world develop their skills, experience and making the world a better place.

Compared to similar organisations, IAESTE operates on a much smaller budget, preferring to focus our energies on providing affordable opportunities to as many students as we can.

Cost should not be a prohibitive factor for people thinking of doing an IAESTE internship and we are proud that each and every internship through IAESTE is paid.

Supporting that mission has never been easier. Whether you are an alumnus of IAESTE, a member, company or just someone who shares our values, you can contribute to our development fund and every penny we receive is spent supporting the development of new and existing IAESTE member

countries, enabling them to get up and running, or increase their exchange, bringing more chances of an internship to the young people of the world.

You can donate to the development fund via this link: <https://iaeste.org/donations>

We are grateful for any contribution, no matter how big or small, and will always let you know where your money has gone and the difference it has made to the association.



IAESTE Employers & Academic Institutions 2019/2020

Each year at our Annual Conference we give eligible IAESTE employers an award for long service and quality of collaboration with national committees. We value and appreciate our employers and these awards are just a small way of saying thank you for their continued contribution to IAESTE. Without them there wouldn't be an IAESTE exchange programme!



FEops

Employer award for 5 years of cooperation

FEops' mission is to create unique, predictive, personalised computational modelling and simulation solutions for structural heart interventions that empower medical device manufacturers to bring superior products faster to the market and enable physicians to improve clinical outcomes. They have received at least 1 IAESTE trainee every year since 2015, and are always very welcoming to international students.



Septentrio

Employer award for 10 years of cooperation

Septentrio, designs, manufactures and sells highly accurate GPS/GNSS receivers, for demanding applications requiring accuracies in the decimeter or centimetre range, even under difficult conditions. In their 10 years of cooperation with IAESTE Belgium, they have received over 30 trainees from 3 continents.

Thank You IAESTE Employers & Educational Institutions!

IAESTE Worldwide

Members and Co-operating Institutions



IAESTE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR THE EXCHANGE OF STUDENTS
FOR TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE

Full Members:

Argentina Comité Argentino del IAESTE, Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation (1961)*
Australia IAESTE Australia (1996)*
Austria IAESTE Austria (1949)*
Belarus IAESTE Belarus, Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus (2000)
Belgium IAESTE Belgium Vzw (1948)**
Bosnia and Herzegovina IAESTE Bosnia & Herzegovina (2000)
Brazil IAESTE Brazil, Abipe (1982)*
Canada IAESTE Canada (1953)*
Colombia IAESTE Colombia, Universidad de Ibagué (1995)*
Croatia IAESTE Croatia, Hrvatska Udruga Za Medunarodnu Razmjenu Studenata Prirodnih I Tehnickih Znanosti (1993)*
Cyprus IAESTE Cyprus, Cyprus University of Technology (1980)*
Czech Republic IAESTE Czech Republic (1965)*
Denmark IAESTE Denmark, Polyteknisk Forening (1948)**
Deutsches Komitee der IAESTE (1950)*
Ecuador IAESTE Ecuador, Universidad San Francisco de Quito (1999)
Egypt IAESTE Egypt, Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University (1961)*
Germany IAESTE Germany, Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (1950)*
Ghana IAESTE Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (1970)*
Greece IAESTE Greece, National Technical University of Athens (1958)*
Hungary IAESTE Hungary, Magyar Mémökhallgatók Egyesülete (1983)*
India IAESTE India (2001)
Iran IAESTE Iran, University of Tehran (2002)
Israel Israel IAESTE Committee, Technion (1951)*
Japan IAESTE Japan (1964)*
Jordan IAESTE Jordan, The University of Jordan (1978)*
Kazakhstan IAESTE Kazakhstan (1995)*
Lebanon IAESTE Lebanon (1966)*
Malta IAESTE Malta (1984)*
Mexico IAESTE Mexico, Amipp, A.c. (1985)*
Mongolia IAESTE Mongolia (2001)
North Macedonia IAESTE Macedonia (1994)*

Norway IAESTE Norway (1948)**
Oman IAESTE Oman, Sultan Qaboos University (2001)
Pakistan IAESTE Pakistan, National University of Sciences & Technology (1990)*
Panama IAESTE Panama, Technological University of Panama (2004)
Philippines POEC Consultancy International Inc. (2007)
Poland IAESTE Poland, Stowarzyszenie IAESTE Polska (1959)*
Portugal IAESTE Portugal, Instituto Superior Técnico (1954)*
Republic of Korea Global Association of Training and Exchange (2007)
Romania IAESTE Romania, Asociatia IAESTE Romania (1998)
Russia IAESTE Russia, Moscow Student Center (1991)*
Serbia IAESTE Srbija (1952)*
Slovakia IAESTE Slovakia (1965)*
Slovenia IAESTE Slovenia (1993)*
Spain IAESTE Spain, Comité Español Para Intercambio de Estudiantes Técnicos IAESTE España (1951)*
Sweden IAESTE Sweden, Chalmers University of Technology (1948)**
Switzerland IAESTE Switzerland (1948)**
Syria IAESTE Syria, Ministry of Higher Education (1965)*
Tajikistan IAESTE Tajikistan (1992)*
Tanzania The Open University (2007)
Thailand IAESTE Thailand, King Mongkut's Institute of Technology, (1978)*
Tunisia IAESTE Tunisia (1959)*
Turkey IAESTE Türkiye, Istanbul Technical University (1955)*
United Arab Emirates IAESTE UAE, Arab Emirates University of Sharjah (2000)
United Kingdom IAESTE UK, British Council (1948)**
U.S.A. IAESTE United States, Cultural Vistas Inc. (1950)*
Uzbekistan IAESTE Uzbekistan, Technical Centre Simuz (1997)*

** Founding Member of IAESTE Ad Hoc (1948) and IAESTE A.s.b.l. (2005)

* Founding Member of IAESTE A.s.b.l. (2005)

Associate Members:

Bangladesh IAESTE Bangladesh, Bangladesh College of Aviation (2013)

China, Including Hong Kong SAR and Macao SAR

Council For International Training and Development (2000)

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (1997)

University of Macau (2004)

Nepal Civil Initiative Nepal (2013)

Netherlands IAESTE Netherlands (2011)

Nigeria University of Benin (2007)

Peru Universidad De Piura (2001)

Qatar Qatar University (2011)

Co-operating Institutions:

Afghanistan SESO (2019)

Afghanistan The Kabul University, Engineering Faculty (2016)

Bolivia Fundacion IAESTE Bolivia – Pasantias Internacionales (2013)

Chile Temuco Univerciudad (2014)

D.P.R. Korea Pyongyang University of Science & Technology, PUST (2015)

France IAESTE Grenoble France (2018)

Gambia Microtech Institute of Multimedia & Technology (2009)

Iceland IAESTE Iceland (2018)

Indonesia Universitas Atma Jaya Yogyakarta (2017)

Iraq The University of Anbar (2017)

Jamaica Jamaica JOYST Youth Exchange International Ltd. (2006)

Kenya Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (2013)

Kenya Egerton University (2020)

Kenya Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (2004)

Kenya Murang'a University (2019)

Luxembourg Find a Job Sarl (2019)

Nicaragua Universidad Tecnológica La Salle (2015)

Palestine An-Najah National University Nablus (2009)

Saudi Arabia The Taibah University (2015)

South Africa Global Ties South Africa (2018)

Sri Lanka University of Moratuwa (2000)

Ukraine, IAESTE IC Ivano-Frankivsk (2019)

Vietnam Thai Nguyen University (2006)

Yemen, Hadhramout Foundation (2020)

Yemen, Hadhramout University (2018)

The International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience A.s.b.l

51, Rue Albert ler, L-1117 Luxembourg, registration number F1180

www.iaeste.org e-mail: board@iaeste.org