

Education Abroad Returnees of the Month October 2017

Edgar Hoover

4th year Mechanical Engineering major
UVA Exchange: TU Berlin, Spring 2016

Most interesting class and why? Did you take classes in connection to your major or electives?

All of my classes were major classes. The most interesting (while by far the most challenging) was dynamics because it strengthened my ability to analyze the geometric and kinematic relationships in mechanical systems. Although this class required a great deal of my time, I was deeply fascinated by the subject matter.

How was education abroad different than anticipated?

My study abroad experience was different than I expected in that my adjustment to the new location and new education system was surprisingly smooth. I managed to find wonderful friends both in and outside of class that helped me adjust to this new environment. While the subject matter of my classes made my academic experience overall very demanding, I managed to stay on top of the material thanks to cooperation with others.

Number one way the experience contributed to your growth

This experience contributed to my growth by getting me out of my UVA comfort zone. I was in a big city, surrounded by strangers of all ages, studying very challenging subjects in a competitive German engineering school. All of these aspects made my experience very intimidating, but having conquered all of these challenges made my time abroad even more rewarding.

Favorite local hangout, and why?

My favorite local hangout in Berlin was a bar called Clash. Clash was somewhat of a biker bar with an alternative vibe that always played loud rock music, which is really not my scene, but the lively atmosphere and friendly people always provided a good time when I went there with friends.

Most interesting/delicious cuisine tried

Mustafa's Gemüse (Vegetable) Kebab





Most meaningful experience abroad

My apartment in Berlin did not have air conditioning, so my I left my windows open a lot of the time. One day, I had forgotten to close my windows, which were right next to my bed, when I went to class and when I came home, I found that the rainstorm had soaked my mattress, pillow, etc. I went about washing and drying everything before going to bed, but the mattress was going to need more time to dry. So I called up a friend of mine and before I could even finish my story he commanded me to come over for a home cooked meal and a comfortable place to sleep. I made many fun and interesting experiences while in Berlin, but this experience really stood out to me because of this no-questions-asked German hospitality.

Sum up the experience in three words

Challenging, exciting, fascinating



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