Lodz University of Technology | Lodz, Poland

Thaís


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Created in 1945, Lodz University of Technology (TUL) has developed into one of the biggest technical universities in Poland. Approximately 21,000 students are currently studying at the University. The educational and scientific tasks of the University are carried out by about 3,000 staff members. Lodz University of Technology was ranked 4th best polish university of technology in 2015 according to Perspektywy educational magazine.
Lodz, Poland

Lodz (pronounced wuɕ) is the third-largest city in Poland with a population of almost 700,000 in 2015. It is located in the central part of the Poland as capital of the Lodz Province. The city's coat of arms alludes to the city's name which translates literally to "boat". The biggest highlights of the city are: the bars and restaurants at Piotrkowska street, the largest Jewish cemetery in Europe enclosed in the Lodz ghetto and the National Film School which granted the city’s nickname, “Hollylodz”.

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Tasks during internship

A methodology for improvement of chemical processes was applied for the case study of ethyl acetate production. In its framework, firstly the actual production process was simulated in Aspen Plus®. Further on, an algorithm for determination of the process bottleneck was applied. Then, a pool of equipment options was analysed regarding their application in replace the equipment with the biggest bottleneck. The two remaining ones were fast evaluated with the help of MatLab® and ProCAMD®. The most promising one was rigorous modelled and a new process was simulated in Aspen Plus®, MatLab® and Excel® interface with this model.

- Improvement of scientific writing and communication skills in English.
- Better knowledge of chemical engineering fields: process design and process intensification.
- Deeper knowledge of Aspen Plus® and MatLab® softwares.
The biggest struggle was the language; there are almost no similarities with any of the languages that I am familiar. This was compensated by the kindness of the locals who went above and beyond to communicate with me. Because of that, the fear of living in a country whose a language I have absolutely no previous knowledge disappeared.

The love for classical music cultivated by the polish people was truly beautiful seeing. It inspired me to listen to more of this type of music.
Culture

Most of the polish people are practicing Catholic; there was always a catholic festivity going on around the country which were nice to see.

Unlike the region of Dortmund, the devotion of the polish people regarding meat was really big. To them, a meal was not a meal without meat; it was just a snack.

Lunch is a very important meal from where I come (Brazil); so a big cultural shock was the daily working hours where people normally work from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. without eating lunch in between. Only after 3 p.m., they have a late lunch at home.
Tips & suggestions for future interns

- Do not be afraid of communication problems because of the language; with body language you can solve most of the problems.
- Pay attention to the city bike system – it is free and easy to use.
- If you are going to stay in the student dormitory and someone is going to visit you for a long period, you can ask to rent a bigger room for this period.
- By request, you can also take Polish language courses to foreigners offered by the University.
The life after...

Firstly, I will work for approximately 3 years in Germany to obtain work experience. Later on, I will apply for PhD in European countries. With this experience that I had in Poland, this country has become a possibility in the pool of countries that I will apply.