

## Incoming from Isasi 2009

In the summer of 2009 (in the 4th semester of my Bachelor's studies) I have done an Erasmus Internship at the Condensed Matter Physics Laboratory (IPKM) at Heinrich-Heine-University in Düsseldorf, Germany. I worked within a great team of international scientists from whom I learned what academic research means. I was involved in a project regarding nanotechnology and I learned experimental techniques used in fabrication and characterization of microelectronic devices. Practically it was a head start into my future career as a scientist, as now I have just finished my master studies in the same area of research.

My experience was not only a professional experience, but also a cultural and social one. Düsseldorf is the capital city of the land NRW and a lot of international people travel to and from this city. This and the fact that the team I was part of was speaking English are two reasons why I didn't have to know German to get along. As a student I met other fellow students with whom I spent my free time and I stayed in contact even after my return to my home University. The center of the city is called Altstadt (old city) and it is a great place to go out have a beer at one of the many pubs around, meet people and have fun.

Also, being a student in Düsseldorf comes with the option of having a transportation ticket for the whole land (you have to pay the social tax at the university, but the ticket is available the whole semester). This makes travelling very appealing because the land is quite large and there is a lot of cities like Köln, Aachen, Dortmund and others worth to spend a day or two in.

Regarding the accommodation, I recommend living in one of the dorms the university offers. First because you live very close to the university and second because you get to know very fast other students. There are single flats (with bathroom and kitchen) and shared flats of two or three students (where you have your own room and share the kitchen and bathroom with the other/s). The rooms are nice and cozy and usually the flatmates are also Erasmus students. The atmosphere in dorms is really great and the other students are nice and friendly. There are common rooms with table tennis, foosball and couches where you can meet neighbors.

All in all, I will never forget my Erasmus experience. It was an eye opener for me and I don't regret doing it.