

Exchange Semester at Riga Technical University

MSc Product Refinement

Sai Prakash Polakonda, SoSe 2019

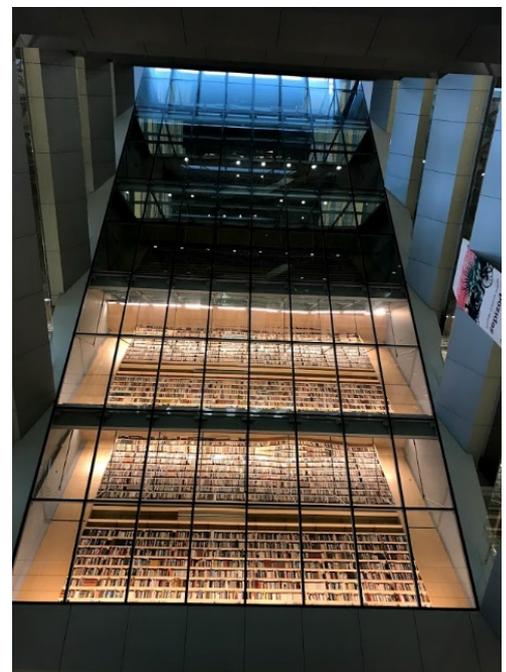
How were the studies and the study situation at the host university?

It was great. University has so many resources, a huge library, talented professors, strong industry connections (for management), startup incubator and sports complex. The professors were so supportive and helpful, as I am from engineering, I had trouble understanding some management concepts, they patiently helped me in understanding. The course I've taken was exclusively designed for entrepreneurs, such environment is a blessing for startup dreamers because entrepreneurs who seek relevant education before setting a business will have a high rate of success.



How was the living situation? (Campus / city/ ...)

About Riga, it's very different from central Europe, but the city is amazing, transport is very good and cheap. The weather gets really cold during winters and too hot during summer.



What was your highlight of your exchange experience?

Studying abroad is a very great experience, we get chance to meet new people, explore new things and a great chance to pursue our interests. In my case, management was my choice.

What advice(s) would you give to other students for everyday life?

Finding accommodation was too difficult, but there are many Facebook groups to search rooms in Riga, some agents charge 100 EUR commission, I am not sure about them whether to trust or not. I found my room through Facebook.

As I said, the weather gets really tough, in winters make sure to have heavy jackets and winter shoes and all winter gear. Its too hot in summer as well. Take all necessary things. Also take medicines for flu and cough, I suggest buying mineral water for everyday (1,- for 5 liters), the tap water wont be good.

Riga is surprisingly the most happening place, a lot of events happen often around the city, most of them are free, keep looking on Eventbrite or Facebook pages for recommendations. I was attended Deep Tech Atelier business conference in April 2019. I met a lot of business leaders and made con-nections that help me for my career.

For car enthusiasts, there a race track and check for events. there's a car museum just beside the track. Make sure to visit the Latvia national library. Its free! Also can visit Stockholm through cruise. Visit any Tallink (cruise service provider) for offers.

There is a lot to explore over there, don't just sit at home watching Netflix. Go offline and make the best out of Riga.

What leisure activities were available?

There's a sports complex, and 24 hr library with wide range of books.

With today's knowledge, would you arrange your semester abroad differently?

I could've still stick to RTU because, their management course is exclusively designed for entrepreneurs.