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I had applied for an Internship through IAESTE towards the end of my second semester of my Masters in Electrical Engineering. Although I applied for the offer, probably in the last minute, I still managed to find an Internship of my interest at the University of Sharjah - UAE. The documents required and the formalities of application submission, through the local committee in Rostock was really straight forward. I was required to apply for VISA and since the duration of my stay in UAE was more than 60 days, I was required to apply for Emirates residential ID, which also required a medical checkup. I received a travel grant through DAAD which covered my one way flight ticket to UAE. The other formalities like accommodation, VISA and residential ID procedure was efficiently taken care by the IAESTE committee in Sharjah.

I was working under the Research group "Distributed Network Systems" and my work was related to a research project on "Optimizing the Wireless capacity using Genetic Algorithm" with the help of parallel programming. I was working under an Associate Professor and was the only intern working on the project, however as my tasks were clearly defined, timing of work was flexible and the timely guidance from my supervisor was helpful and made it possible for me to work with ease. The task of the project was to find out the number of nodes that can transmit and receive simultaneously with the least interference and signal loss using genetic algorithm and to make the execution time of the program shorter by running on multiple compute node and threads using parallel programming paradigms. Throughout my internship I got to learn a lot of new things through the various interactions and the tasks given to me by my supervisor. We also had a Research forum where all the Research Interns had to present their work in front of the University Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Director of Research, along with staffs and other researchers at the University.

Apart from work, during my stay in the UAE, there were a lot of other interesting events that I got to enjoy. UAE is a nation where you can find a lot of expats from India, Pakistan and Philippines apart from the Arabs and therefore most of the people spoke English and also knew a little Hindi, so it was very easy interacting with the people there. The UAE people are known for their hospitality and friendliness which I got to experience when we had met with the Alumni people through our student coordinator who took us to experience the life in the UAE. Feasting in Authentic Arab restaurants, BBQ, camping in the mountains and sleeping under the stars, trekking in the Rocky Mountains, water theme parks, music nights were some of the things experienced with the Alumni folks. The local IAESTE committee was also not far behind in the events organized for us as they arranged trips to Abu Dhabi, Louvre museum, fun activities like escape room and BBQ dinners.

There are countless places to visit in UAE ranging from the tall sky scrapers to the vast desert. Sharjah is one of the 7 Emirates in the UAE and you could reach the other Emirates within few hours by bus / taxi. I visited Dubai to see the famous Burj Kalifa building, the water fountain and laser shows in Dubai mall, Dubai frame a place where one could see at one end the old buildings of the past and at the other end the endless sky scrapers and the glittering side of Dubai, the gardens in Al-Ain and the Jabal-Jais mountains in Ras Al Khaimah. The most memorable day during my stay was the visit to Ferrari World which hosts the world's fastest roller coaster, all the rides were pure rushes of adrenaline.

I had the time of my life at UAE and the opportunity to work as a Researcher was a rewarding experience, both personally and professionally . We had a very diverse mix of around 30 interns from different parts of the world. Even the weekdays were fun filled as swimming pool / football or basketball courts were free for us to use. Due to the fun filled time that I had there, the 3 months I spent there seemed to have gotten over way too soon. I am eagerly waiting to have another opportunity to work in the wonderful country of UAE.