

INTERNSHIP REPORT

IAESTE Internship at Iran University of Science and Technology in Tehran

12.07.2021 – 31.08.2021

Work

My internship was located at the Automotive Engineering Research Center (AERC) of Iran University of Science and Technology (IUST). Initially, the project was related to autonomous driving, but it was changed to magnetic brake experiments due to problems with the robotic equipment. The rather mechanical engineering related work about eddy-current brakes was carried out with the supervision of two professors of AERC. I received an Arduino board, DC supply, discs, magnets, and infrared as well as temperature sensor. The first objective was to setup up the experiment environment, consisting mainly of connecting the equipment and programming the Arduino board - which was a great experience as I never have had contact with Arduino before. After the setup was installed, I conducted the experiments according to my professor. After that, I did a literature review and the writing of the research paper started. However, there was a bit of lack of structure and organisation throughout the internship from IUST, so my internship ended after the conduction of experiments instead of the whole research project. Nevertheless, the time spent at IUST was a great experience, cultural and academically.

Experience

The internship was generally well supported by IAESTE Iran. I got picked up from the airport and driven to the student dormitory, which helped a lot because the first few days were quite overwhelming by the chaotic traffic and heat of Tehran (+36°C every day). The only major downside of the dormitory was that we had to return home before 11pm (which caused some troubles since students are typically running late...). After the initial adaption, the internship started and life in Tehran began. It was easy to get around by taxi (application 'Snapp' which is like Uber) or metro (very cheap!). The fact that some other students from Europe (mainly Germany and Austria actually) were absolving internships simultaneously helped to settle quickly. We did a lot of trips each weekend, visiting the other cities like Shiraz, Isfahan, Yazd or even Qeshm and Hormuz Island. The highlight for me was the mountain landscape while climbing the highest mountain of Iran, Damavand, and the dessert which I have seen for the first time. The Iranian cuisine is very delicious, with its classics of chicken or 'koobideh' kabab with the drink 'doogh' (refreshing milk drink); my favourite has become 'ghormeh sabzi' though. Generally, you can also find lots of Pasta and Burger in typical cafes - just be a little careful with pizza if you are into Italian Pizza. All in all, you can find everything you need in Tehran and it's a great place to live in.

Discover

The culture of Iran is very friendly and welcoming. People are generally open-hearted, interested in meeting foreigners, asking where you are from and wanting to take pictures afterwards. But often they also invite you to their homes for dinner which is amazing because it is very easy to experience where and how locals live. They love to share food and drinks, especially tea - the most popular everyday life drink I would say. Tea is often served at work for small get togethers or breaks. If you are facing any problems, needing a doctor, money exchange or whatever, Iranians are very helpful and often go with you in order to support you as language assistant. That is especially helpful since sometimes there are 'tourist prices' which can easily be avoided when going with locals.