

## “Russland in der Praxis”

### A unique opportunity for everyone

DAIMLER KAMAZ RUS is one of the major participants in the program “Russland in der Praxis”. “Russland in der Praxis”, also translated as Russia in Practice, is a unique opportunity for students to gain work experience and a foothold in various industries due to a six-month internship. The process chain contains many different partners, who work together to realize such projects. The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and Higher School of Economics Moscow (HSE) organize this program. It designed in collaboration and support of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Moscow and the German-Russian Chamber of Commerce. Therefore, DAAD cooperates with global organizations, major companies, various institutions and internationally highly ranked universities. The CiW Plant in Naberezhnye Chelny is providing such an educational module in form of an internship already for the second semester in a row. This summer semester, the third German student successfully completed his internship at DK RUS. The first-hand experience of one of the participants is provided for an elaborated review.

“Hello dear friends and readers! My name is Stanislav and I had the unique opportunity to participate in the exchange program Russland in der Praxis. In order to give you all a more detailed insight, first some words about me. Despite the fact that I was born in Kazakhstan, I have never lived consciously in another country except for Germany. I am living and studying in a small city called Aachen. My specialization is production engineering and among the specific majors, it is laser technology. In parallel, I am working at the Fraunhofer Institute for Laser Technology in the laser-welding department. This work is heavily connected with research and development activities and is not designed for usual plant mass production. Now, you can already answer the most frequently asked question: How could I choose Russia and especially Naberezhnye Chelny? The

follow up question is usually related to my mental state after that decision. However, all jokes aside, it was a clear choice for me. I wanted to go, live and work abroad. In my case abroad meant Russia. I am more or less familiar with the Russian language and culture, but also used to a German environment and work conditions. A joint venture, which combines two worldwide famous companies DAIMLER and KAMAZ and which represents an excellent international cooperation between Germany and Russia is obviously a great opportunity for everyone, which should be taken. That is why I applied for the vacancy. Although, I admittedly had my concerns about the time ahead of me, which in the end turned out to be nothing but false prejudices and fears.

The measures taken by the organizers, in particular DAAD, HSE and DK RUS, for the whole process and organization of the exchange were not necessarily the easiest. Nevertheless, they were carried out with the greatest care and attention and the best support one can provide. Regardless of a whole pile of paperwork and constraints, we finally arrived in Moscow, where every participants of the exchange program could deep dive into the Russian culture, economics and politics due to the provided seminars.



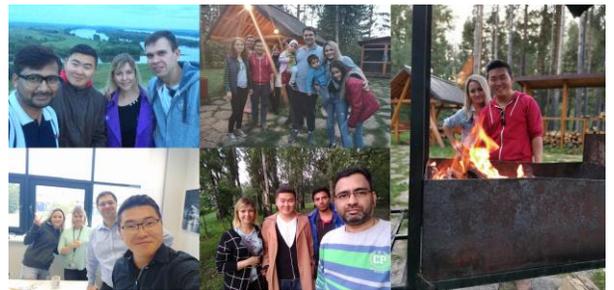
After a week in the capital, the time came for finally going to the intended city, Naberezhnye Chelny. Honestly, even though I can speak Russian, it is not that easy to pronounce. Some months before, I had no idea where it is located or any further information regarding the city. In

Germany, I consider the 5 kilometers to the border of Netherlands as the other end of the world. Chelny is 3400 km, 29 days by foot or 2 days by train away from my hometown and is still only in the west of Russia. That is why I had to reconsider my judgement of distances and proceed further. The first couple of weeks were tough. At my arrival in April, there was still snow lying around in some places, the weather was not cozy at all and I developed even acrobatic skills to avoid some holes on the walking roads. Slowly, I adapted myself to the strange time zone, the weather got a bit better and I could explore the city. I learned to love Chelny and the longer I stayed there the more I discovered. Despite the lack of international popularity, the city has a lot to offer. There are several beautiful places and squares, which one can visit. A bicycle tour or a walk along the river promenade, the mixture of Tatar and Russian cuisine, the possibility to shop even on Sundays really got me. By the end of my time in Russia, I am a staunch supporter and a loyal fan of Naberezhnye Chelny.



The main objective was to gain work experience abroad. DAAD and DAIMLER KAMAZ RUS made this possible. During the last six months, the company achieved several groundbreaking accomplishments and went through many changes! The new SFTP plant, which produces cabins in white became my workplace. I have had the pleasure of working in the department of program planning and documentation with a great collective. Especially exiting was and still is the ramp up phase of the new plant. Such a major project is obviously bound to some challenges, which every employee including me had to face. Even if sometimes not everything is executed according to the plans, which were made in advance, I learned how to adopt, adjust, react

quickly and be flexible. I could witness how every department develops measures, countermeasures, establishes stable processes and makes progress. Additionally, there were also university duties, which often prolonged my days. Without the strong support and mentoring by my colleagues, I would not be able to manage all this pile of work. Therefore, I want to thank every involved employee of DK RUS and especially my department Martin Boll, Maksim Lykasov, Lilia Khanova and Ekaterina Kartavshchikova for their warm and welcoming work atmosphere, their positive attitude, their time and the chance to be a co-worker during my practice. I had a great time and it was my pleasure to be a part of this amazing staff.



The exchange program is also a great opportunity for traveling across Russia. In my spare time, I was able to visit several places and cities.



By covering different cities, you can explore Russia, familiarize yourself with the culture and meet wonderful people. The more you travel the more you realize that there is so much more to explore.



Besides Chelny, I was lucky to cross out Moscow, Kaluga, Kazan, Saint Petersburg, Samara, Ufa, Krasnodar, Sochi, Izhevsk, Almetjewsk and Elabuga of my bucket list. In every city, I met kind and friendly people, who took the time and showed me around.



Thank you very much for your company and a great time. Overall, it was an amazing experience, which I will never forget and I am definitely planning to visit Russia again!"