

GUJARAT TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

GTU International Experience Program- 2015 at Hochschule Wismar, Germany.

A window of opportunity came to us through an e-mail in the form of International Experience Program 2015 and 49 students of Civil Engineering grabbed that lifetime chance to breathe European air. Our group was divided into two batches one was of 24 students who boarded their flight from Mumbai to Hamburg via Paris and another 25 students boarded their flight from Ahmedabad to Hamburg via Dubai. It takes about 2 hours to reach Hamburg from Wismar by bus. All students needed a rest after a long and tiring journey to settle down in the German environment. Administrative Manager Yelena Zascerinska and team helped us in settling down.

Wismar is a hanseatic city covered with lush green trees and houses made of Brick Gothic construction situated at Baltic Bay with greenery all around. It's a wonderful city with discipline and silence prevailing in the air with a very good attitude of local people toward us. Although we did not know Germany but all the people met here saying "Hello" which seemed very friendly to us.



Hochschule Wismar at a glance

Week-1 started with the main Subject Structural Design-I for which notes were given in advance. Sir Max Fechner was teaching Structural Design-I. First of all an introduction test was taken to check our knowledge of the subject and after a couple of lectures the students were able to catch up with the teaching method of Sir Max and it became easy and even more interesting to study from him as he was friendly to us. On the last day of the second week our external exam of SD-I was taken. At the start of the third week Prof. Latz taught us Bridge Design which is an optional subject but quite interesting one as the way Prof. Latz taught us was very good and he always made the students laugh, also, in between this week we learned some basics of RSTAB-7 software used to

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determine internal forces, support reactions and deformation of any planar or 3D framework structure.

Week-4 started with Structural Design-II and our visit to “Wisseмара” it was a sailing trip to the Baltic Sea in an old medieval ship made around 1354 with length of 32 m and 8.4 m wide, it’s like a museum ship in the port of Wismar. It was such a memorable day that everyone captured each and every golden moment in their camera.



“Wissemara” boat Trip

During each weekend we visited new places, exploring new places by the map. Now we all were habituated to German food and its environment. The new way of learning, understanding the subjects and felt that it was not a burden but was very interesting.



Wendorff beach of Wismar

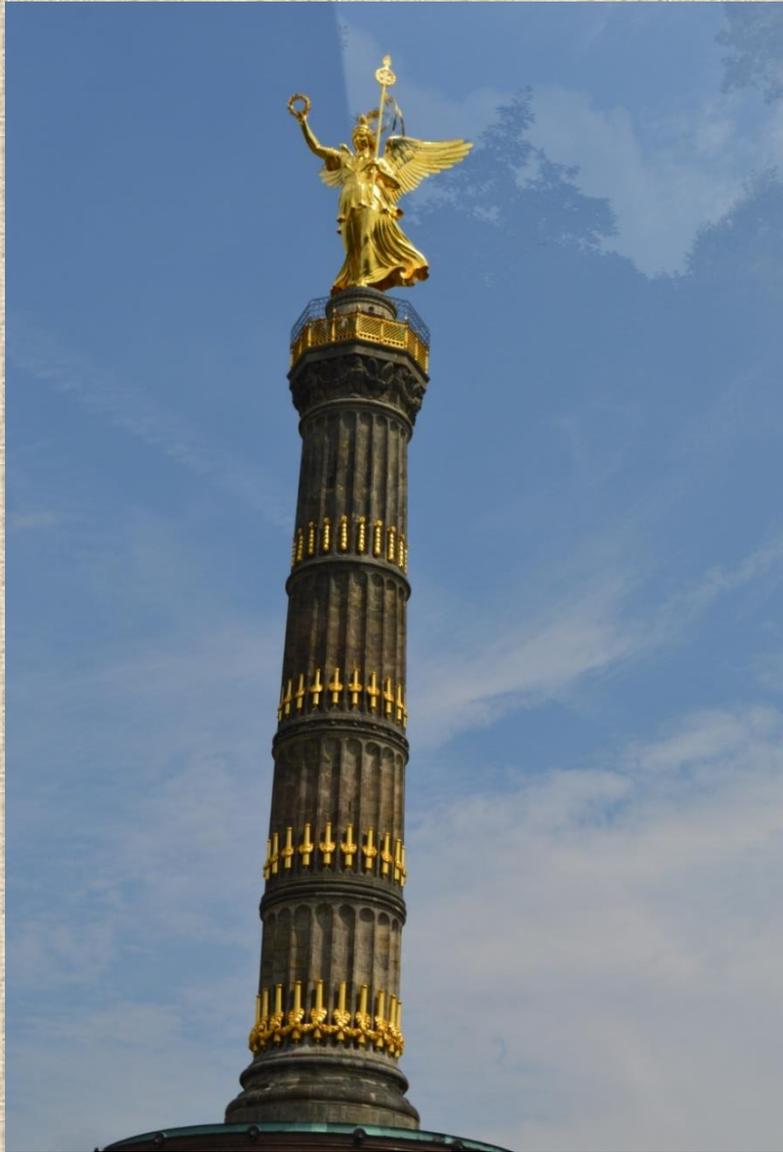


Hamburg at a glance

During the next weekend, continuing our journey, we visited another wonderful city, the grand capital of Germany, Berlin. It is a city of culture, politics, media and science. After reaching Berlin we got free time of five hours to roam around in this beautiful city. Then there was sightseeing by boat (city centre) for two hours that was the amazing part of the trip. Everyone has synchronised each and every good moment of that city, who knows when again we will get this opportunity in our lifetime.



Bellevue Palace (Residence of the President of Germany)



Berlin Victory Column

During the fifth week, after exhaustive trips to Rostock, Hamburg, Lubeck and Berlin, all of these cities being located very near to Wismar, provided a wonderful experience. In this week our Meeting was with the Mayor of Wismar Thomas Beyer in the City Hall. In that meeting the Mayor gave us a short presentation about Wismar and how Wismar got the status of World Heritage City by the UNESCO. He also answered some of our questions about the future of Wismar and how other countries have invested in the infrastructure of Wismar. We felt very honoured after our meeting with the Mayor of Wismar.



Moments with Honourable Mayor Thomas Beyer of Wismar

The International Experience Program was like a golden ticket to us and because of IEP we learned how to work in a team, imbibe discipline and the first of all, technical knowledge for which we came here, developed self confidence in us. We are very thankful to GTU and Shri. Hiren Thaker Sir for their hard work and efforts and we will not forget the IEP team who worked very hard to make our dreams come true.

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