

Evaluation and personal experience report
International Summer School on Fluidic Micro-Electro-Mechanical-Systems
(FMEMS)

At Jade University of Applied Sciences in Wilhelmshaven

In context of my PhD project, in which I aim to combine biotechnology with microfluidics, I wanted to take part in this interesting summer school to gain more insight and broaden my knowledge of microfluidics. My colleague and I, we found this course after intensively searching on the internet. I was very interested in this summer course because the description was properly elucidated and it seemed as a perfect opportunity to ameliorate my English communication skills and to meet international people.

The course schedule was built in a clear and constructive way. Summarized, we started in the first week with the basics in microfluidics and the practical production of microfluidic chips. In the second week we needed this gained knowledge to build a glucose sensor ourselves, along with an integrated detection system. In the last week, we focused on biomedical applications and on visualization/analyzing with some software. During the practical courses we were divided in two groups, and at the end of each week we needed to present our experience and data. Although this was quite intense to fit in our schedule, I noticed that it was interactive, very instructive and pleasant to do. This way, we did not focus on just one topic, but could integrate different approaches. Each time, the practical courses were introduced with informative and concise lessons, given by (inter)national professors. It was an honor to meet them and interact in order to exchange knowledge. The instructors of the practical courses were very helpful and open for interaction. There was a receptive and cozy atmosphere in the laboratory, resulting in a nice time during the practical courses.



Besides the courses, the team of the international office and some appointed students foresaw interactive and versatile events and activities. As all the students were from different countries, we had to get to know each other somehow and these activities really anticipated on this, e.g. bowling, welcome and farewell barbecue, leisure

activities on the beach, swimming (Nautimo and sea),... This way we also discovered the beautiful Wilhelmshaven and its surrounding cities/island by even bus, train or boat. The most precious memory was the trip with the ferry to Helgoland, apart from the heavy sea sickness I unfortunately experienced, and the stand-up paddling at the Banter See.

I am also very satisfied with the accommodation we had. It was close to the bus station and (food)shops, we could enjoy a delicious breakfast each day and the rooms were well-maintained and cozy. This made our stay even more pleasant and comfortable.



I personally really recommend this summer course to students (especially international students) who, on the one hand, want to get introduced into the microfluidics world and its relevance in biomedical applications (both theoretically as practically), and, on the other hand, want the experience to go abroad for a short period, meet international people and work on their social skills and English language. This summer school is a low-barrier and unforgettable chance to benefit from both opportunities and it is very well organized and actively guided.

