It all started in my third semester when an idea of doing an internship struck me. I got to know about IAESTE though one of my friends, because he had just completed an internship abroad. Initially I was really unsure about my acceptance in any company since I presumed that the process would be really tedious. But when I actually started with it, the IAESTE Rostock team made it really simple for me.

Within a few days, I submitted my application, and since I had a COBI offer, it was fairly simple. In a month, the company contacted me directly and scheduled an interview with me. The interview went really well, considering how much I was prepared for it. After a month's time, I got my official offer both from the company as well as IAESTE. Soon then, I contacted IAESTE Madrid about my accommodation. I then applied for my visa since my term of internship was more than 3 months. All things considered, the Spanish consulate in Hamburg was really easy to get to and the visa officers there were really friendly. I got to e-mail then more than a couple of times a month and they walked me through the whole process and made everything simple. They even waited over two weeks for a missing document which I then delivered it on my way to India. I then spent a month in India with my parents before the end of which I got a mail from the Spanish consulate that I got my visa confirmed and it's ready to be picked up. It was time to book my ticket to go to Madrid ☺

I went to Madrid on 1st of May. Apparently, champion's league semi-finals was up and Real Madrid was playing Bayern Munich. On my flight there, I saw a lot of FC-Bayern fans in their scarfs and jerseys heading to Santiago Bernabéu. I was received by a volunteer of IAESTE in the airport and he took me to my place of residence in his car. It was really helpful since I moved all the way from Rostock to Madrid and I had all my stuff with me. He also got the keys from the landlord and showed me to my apartment. That evening, even he was going for the same match and hence, he added me to the IAESTE summer interns group in Madrid and posted in the group whether someone can come and keep me company in the evening. Soon enough, I got a few phone calls and before I knew, I was out in the evening with a few Madrid members and we were having fun. They taught me the Spanish way of greeting, "Hola!" and two kisses (I had a hard time doing it right since the old hand-shake came first in mind whenever I greeted any lady). On the first day of my work, which was on 3rd of May, I was accompanied by two members, since it was on the other side of the city and not everyone knew that neighborhood well. They left me with the security and we parted ways.

I worked in the Siemens building with a company named "MNI Technology on rails". I was received by my team leader at the reception and I was soon in the floor where they handed me some company merchandises. I got my ID, my new mouse pad, along with my CPU and monitor. I assembled my PC and fired on the system only to realize that everything was in Spanish and I did not have a clue about it. That whole day, I sat with the system figuring out how to change the system language. Luckily, Windows7 Enterprise had a MUI which made it easy enough. The next day I was given a manual to read, which I completed in a couple of hours, and I spent the next two weeks joining new online courses to learn all the things that I wanted to, and also started learning Spanish.

After a while, they figured out that they couldn't just keep me without an assignment and they gave me the source code of the company's intranet along with a few new requirements. It was entirely in a field that I wasn't trained in and which I definitely wasn't hired for. Nevertheless, I took it as an opportunity, did a small introduction course in PHP, JavaScript and CSS, and I started my work in a couple of days. I found out tons of errors in the first day and tried to solve most of them. I reported this only to realize that the guy working on this before was just on probation and was fired the next day. I kind of felt bad for him,

but well, I kept on going ahead. I finished all the requirements by the end of my second month, and they searched really hard to give me something else to work on. The third month, I was introduced to another project which I had to test, which a guy who already quit the company developed, and the guy, who was about to quit was working on. I was told that once the other guy quits, I had to take over the project and test it and deliver it to the client.

Initially I was skeptical about it since I had never worked on this technology as well, and I wasn't hired for that project too. Sooner, I figured out this was the best I was going to get and started getting some knowledge from the guy who was working on it. The project was in C# and asp.net, developed in visual studio. The client I was working with was Siemens. As soon as the guy left, I was handed over his laptop

and I started working on it. I found out that whatever the guy was working on, it didn't work, and I had to redo most of it. I tried to get to the bottom of it but was unsuccessful since the company did not maintain proper documentation for this project. Then we called over the guy who developed this, I had a chat with him for more than a couple of hours and understood exactly what was going on and in a couple of week, I got to the point where I did my first deployment. It was really overwhelming for me, since that was the first project of mine as a developer which was being deployed. After a lot of releases and deployment, I somehow perfected the software and that was my journey in the company. I was also offered a position in this company after I graduate (which I did not decide yet), and they also offered an extension to my internship to be done from Germany which I gladly agreed to.

Apart from my exciting and brain-scratching work experience, I also had an amazing time living in Madrid. Summer in Madrid was an amazing time. I was living with other interns from IAESTE and we hung out pretty often. Since it was summer, most of the IAESTE volunteers fled the city and the only ones left in the city were the interns. We made many plans by ourselves and explored all of the city and around the city. Madrid is surrounded by a mountain range at which it's amazing to hike. I did not miss any of the hikes and trekked them all in my 5 month stint. I also had a road trip to a region in the north called Asturias and then another short trip to Malaga in the south of Spain. Both of them included hikes in the most spectacular routes of Spain. This was an experience of a lifetime for me and I am greatly thankful to IAESTE for making this happen. I wanted to pass on my experience and all that I learned and enjoyed to others, and hence I also joined the local committee of Rostock to make this happen. And now, I am happily promoting IAESTE because I believe, good things are always meant to be shared ☺