

Scholarship report of the CEEPUS exchange from the 15.07. - 15.08.2019 in Graz (A) by Moritz Trieb

This report shall give a short review of the activities and the daily routine of me as a CEEPUS exchange student in Graz, Austria.

The 4 weeks internship was held at the department of pediatric radiology at the university hospital of Graz with the supervising professor Univ.-Prof. Dr. Erich Sorantin. Arriving on the morning of the 15th of July I asked my way through to the pediatric radiology department from where I was directed to the OeAD centre to sort out some organizational affairs first. There, I received the scholarship check over 1050€, which was paid in cash (total amount) by the Bank of Austria.

Back at the hospital, I received a 42 pages script (Pediatric X-ray Checklist), which included radiologic findings in newborns and children, which had to be studied. I also got introduced to other attending CEEPUS students, who came from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic and Albania. Together with me, two other students joined on the 15th of July. The rest was already present from the 1st of July on and attended the ongoing summer school (afternoon lectures), which was over the whole July. In total we were 10 CEEPUS students at the department.

Until the end of July our daily routine looked like this:

We arrived in the morning around 7:10 in the hospital, got dressed with white pants and a white lab coat, which we received by the university hospital, then joined the morning report at 7:15, which was held in German and lead by Prof. Sorantin. Afterwards, we were divided into groups of 2-3 students to attend either Sonography, MRI or Computer Tomography or work respectively on a scientific project by Dr. Tschauner. On the project we worked together with an engineer from Croatia, who created an artificial intelligence, which was used to detect fractures on wrists of children. Our task was to detect and label the fractures by ourselves. Afterwards our precision rate was measured over a 10 day period, while receiving feedback after each day. It was seen that the precision levels reached over 95% after receiving feedback for about 5 consecutive days. In MRI and CT we were observing and the doctors/nurses explained us the cases and gave us a great insight into their workday. In sonography we were also observing examinations by doctors on patients, but were also able to perform ultrasound on us. This helped me to greatly increase my practical ability on how to use an ultrasound properly.

Every day at 8:30, Prof. Sorantin took us on his round over the wards starting on the intensive care unit, where we looked at present cases and listened to the professor dictating reports. He explained us a lot and asked us questions about the script he handed us out in the beginning, but what I appreciated in particular was, when he gave us life advice. I will definitely remember many things he told us about what we should look at, when choosing a specialization, that we should always look at the patient as a whole and how many things we have to consider, when looking at a disease. I learned, that radiology is a very interdisciplinary discipline and that you need to have a broad knowledge of

Anatomy, Physiology and Pathophysiology.

I'm very thankful for the professor dedicating his time to us and giving us a feeling how enthusiastic you can be about your profession. It was amazing to see how eager to learn he still was after working in the hospital for over 30 years.

After the rotation we were divided again to the activities I mentioned above until we went to lunch around 11:30. After lunch we usually used the time, while the sonography room was not occupied to perform ultrasound on ourselves and improve our practical skills. While the summer school was still going on we joined the afternoon lectures from 14:30 – 16:00 o'clock, which were held on various topics and usually were very interesting and entertaining. The summer school finished on the end of July. After that, 7 students left our group and we remained 3 students, who were instructed with a new project by Dr. Tschauner, where the goal was to calculate the average angle in between the interphalangeal joints to get reference values and determine possible fractures as anatomical variations or vice versa. Dr. Tschauner did a great job in supervising us and a lot of credit is due to his patience and willingness to integrate the exchange students in his project.

We spent a lot of time together and enjoyed the summer in the Stadtpark, went to lakes or went to the city in the evenings. The weekends were free and could be used for trips, etc.

All in all, I can say that I had a great stay in Graz academically as well as personally. I got to know amazing people from all different parts of the world. The international office of the Med Uni graz made a big effort in organizing social activities to bring all exchange students (CEEPUS, Erasmus, etc.) together and make them feel welcomed.

I can highly recommend to make such an experience and hope that I could give some useful information in this report.

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