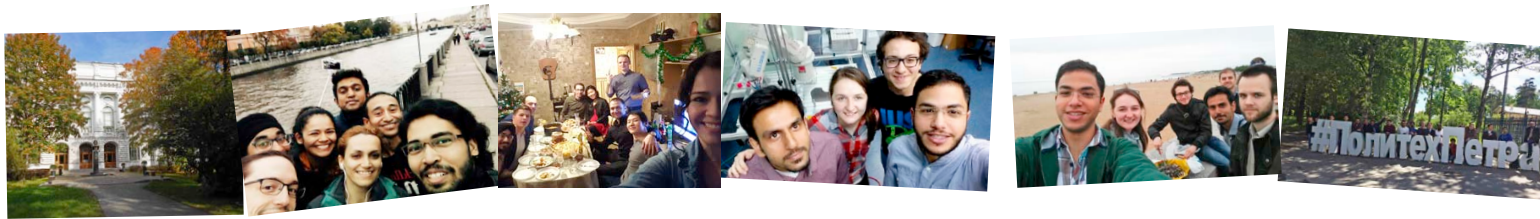


Around the World



Selfies from St. Petersburg:
Learning, living, celebrating - with fellow students
from different countries and cultures.
Photos: personal

... with Mechatronics

One year St. Petersburg, one year Hanover. Lectures in English, fellow students from all over the world. The goal: a Russian and a German Master's degree in International Mechatronics. Uliana Dudko from Russia has already had it since 2016. Christopher Blake from the USA is still studying. Currently both meet at the PZH.

The fact that Uliana Dudko and Christopher Blake would meet in the winter semester 2017/18 in the exercise "Production of Optoelectronic Systems" of the Institute for Transport and Automation Technology was in no way foreseeable.

Christopher grew up in Cicero, a small town in Indiana. At Purdue University he received his bachelor in mechanical engineering in 2010; as a minor, he studied computer graphics technology and dance. He then worked as a development engineer in Houston, Texas for Baker Hughes. In 2013 he also went to Germany for Baker Hughes, to the branch in Celle. He could only count in German, nothing else. He went to a German course twice a week in order to "also have a social life".

While Christopher was learning German in Celle, Uliana works at an IT company in Pensa, Russia. She also grew

up in the city, about 600 kilometers southeast of Moscow, where she studied computer science, played theater, and became a mentor for new students. She had a good job, but she still wanted to do her master's, preferably learning something new. She chose "Intelligent Systems", an International Master Program offered in St. Petersburg and London. During her freshman year in St. Petersburg she attended a conference in London. She did not like it very much.

She discovered the master of mechatronics program of Leibniz University - it is comparable, but sets a different focus: she thinks that "she could learn mechatronics, that is a lot of electronics, in addition to her IT background," and thinks "super super fantastic". She changed the master and came to Hanover in the fall of 2015 for the third semester instead of London. The language center offers a one-month intensive German course - the language

base for the leisure, study language remains English.

Uliana was now studying in Hannover Mechatronics in the second year of the Master's degree, and Christopher continued to work in Celle - but thought he was missing something: IT - besides his knowledge of the bachelors, programming is one of his hobbies - and mechanical engineering, and he thought he lacked electronics. He wanted to do a Master's, to open up more possibilities. He sought and found the master "International Mechatronics".

In August 2016 he had begun his master studies in St. Petersburg. a funny feeling, he recalls: They were 16 students from Hannover - although they have never been to Hannover. They studied in Russia but did not speak Russian. His fellow students come from Mexico, India, Chile and Egypt, among others. All were housed together in one building, did a lot together and taled in many

different "English". Christopher found the apprenticeship in St. Petersburg "very, very good - with a few exceptions" - in particular optimization methods, neural networks and the IT subjects are at a high level.

For the winter semester 2017/18, Christopher's Master-Troupe moved to Hannover for the second year. Uliana had been a research assistant for a year now - she is doing her doctorate at the Institute of Transport and Automation Technology and is leading the exercises for "Production of Optoelectronic Systems" for the international mechatronics master. For her to be younger than most of "her" students at the age of 24 was quite strange. On the other hand, it is quite normal in Russia to do a doctorate at this age or already have a lot of responsibility in her job.

So here they are: Christopher from Indiana, who came via Houston, Celle and St. Petersburg and Uliana from



Uliana Dudko
PZH
January 2018



Christopher Blake
PZH
January 2018

“... the many different cultures within Russia – I had no idea!”

Russia, who has landed here in Hanover because of a rather spontaneous change of plans instead of in London. Both wanted to learn more, more electronics above all, and both were very conscious of the international aspect. Was it a good decision? And where does it lead?

Christopher - who just like Uliana speaks German fluently - wants to do his doctorate after completing his master's degree. He is very interested in Artificial Intelligence. "That was an interesting twist for me," he says, "because actually I wanted more mechatronics". He also wants to travel more, inspired by his fellow students from all over the world.

Uliana has another two years for her PhD. She will develop an intelligent interface of very small light-emitting sensor modules, which send data wirelessly via high-frequency LED pulses and which are powered by energy harvesting. After these two years, she would like to work for a few years in Germany. "What I have learned here, I can not do in my home country - I would have to go to St. Petersburg or Moscow. In Moscow everything would be too big for me, even the distances. If I go back to Russia, I would go to St. Petersburg. "This is also Christopher's first choice." I love St. Petersburg! If I found a good job, I would like to work there. So much culture! Dance! Museums! And the many different cultures within Russia, I had no idea!"

In discovering their own cultural differences, both are now tested. Uliana noticed that people in Germany are often more friendly looking - compared to often sad or closed-looking Russians. Russians are, as soon as you get to know them, very open. "They invite you home and share everything. In Germany you have to know someone very well before you invite him to your home."

Christopher, who is fascinated by how similar the people in St. Petersburg in comparison to Americans or Germans - "My mother was afraid of Russia!" - had only one issue to fight there, the "other idea of Time" of his Russian friends. "Time is a point for Germans and Americans. Time is a period for Russians," he says. He has a clear picture for the difference: "Seven o'clock is not 7:00 with them - but rather something extended. Rather something seven-ish."



*In the lecture "Production of Optoelectronic Systems", which is offered by the Institute for Transport and Automation Technology for International Master Students, you will currently meet Uliana Dudko as a supervisor and Christopher Blake as a student.
Photos: Leo Menzel*

Interest in St. Petersburg, Mechatronics or Production Systems and Technologies?

The application deadline for the next Master of International Mechatronics is May 31st. Naturally, it is also aimed at students of Leibniz University. For more information on the exchange, contact Nikita Shchekutin, contact person for this master at the Institute for Transport and Automation Technology, at nikita.shchekutin@ita.uni-hannover.de.

The next opportunity to get an idea of St. Petersburg and Russian culture, for students of Leibniz University, is the Summer Workshop

"Production Systems and Technologies" in St. Petersburg, which is every year in the Pentacost week and just like the Master's study. It is within the framework of the DAAD-supported Strategic Partnership with the Polytechnical University "Peter the Great". The trip is organized by the Institute for Transport and Automation Technology; The website of the International Office for International Affairs has information for LUH about further workshops.