



University of Sharjah | Sharjah, U.A.E.

**Anonym**

M.Sc. - Automation and Robotics - 5<sup>th</sup> semester

02.10.2017 – 22.12.2017

## University of Sharjah



University of Sharjah is an Emirati private national university. It was established by the ruler of Sharjah, Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al-Qasimi to meet the emirate of Sharjah's aim of educational needs in 1997.

I was working for Research Institute of Sciences and Engineering (RISE) in the Autonomous Robotics and Active Vision (ARAV) research group under electrical engineering department of university of Sharjah. ARAV represented university of Sharjah in 5<sup>th</sup> Arab Robotics conference with smart robotic coffee pouring machine on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017.

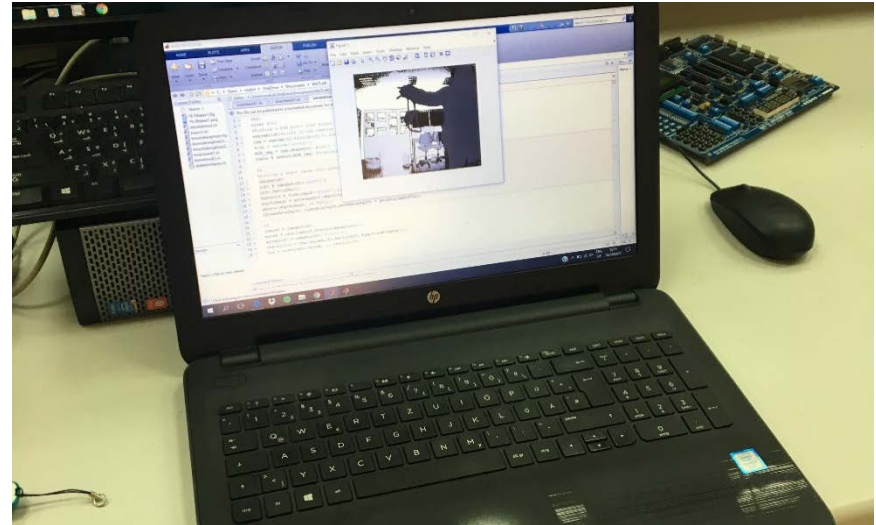
## Sharjah, U.A.E.

Sharjah is the third largest of the seven emirates that make up the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with the population of over 1,400,000 and is the only one to have land on both the Persian Gulf Coast and the Gulf of Oman. Distinctive landmarks are the two major covered souks, reflecting Islamic design and a number of recreational areas, public parks such as Al Jazeirah Fun Park and Al Buheirah Corniche. The city is also notable for numerous mosques. Sharjah is known as a family place. Cost of living is cheaper in Sharjah than Dubai.



## Organisation

After the arrival, I was welcomed by an IAESTE coordinator who has shown me around the campus. I was also provided an accommodation by the university of Sharjah outside the campus along with the other interns. Accommodation was satisfactory with all the available utilities. I was also commuting to the university of Sharjah by staff bus.



My work was entirely in English, my supervisor was quite comfortable with English hence I did not face any problems with Arabic language.



## Akademische Eindrücke

- I have worked with two projects mainly. The first one was a research project about 'obstacle avoidance by manipulator arms with multiple Kinect cameras' which was new for me.
  - The second project was about 'Mobile robotic arm system for handling laboratories spills accidents' which included programming the Kinect cameras to get skeletal data and pass to manipulator arm.
  - I also represented 5<sup>th</sup> Arab Robotics conference in which the smart robotic coffee pouring machine was invented by the research group
- I did this internship to have an experience working under a research group in a university at an international level for my future goals.
  - Also, working in Middle East for the first time was a great experience to know about the culture of the locals and their lifestyle.
  - My supervisor was always available for all kinds of doubts to be discussed with me.
  - I was given access to the library, PCs and sports complex.
  - As a part of a task, I was guiding Bachelor students( Electrical Engineering and Nuclear Engineering ) in their final projects in the fields of robotics and programming in MATLAB.



## Soziale Integration

Local committee organized several events on weekends such as kayaking, cycling, hiking, star gazing night in the Desert through which I socialized with several strangers. There was also an IAESTE day through which I interacted with students and interns of university of Sharjah. I also went to sports in the university campus regularly through which I took part in sports competitions due to which I socialized with many other local students.

I made many contacts with local committee of IAESTE U.A.E. They were friendly, helpful and cheerful on every weekends. I was also introduced to previous local interns who came to Europe for their internships.

## Ihre „Werbeaktion“ für die TU

- Well, there was an IAESTE day organized in the university. I was representing TU Dortmund and spoke about my studies with the local students.
- Also, some of them asked for the applications for masters, I guided them to the website of TU Dortmund.
- I took part in volunteering an fund raising event for cancer patients in American university of Sharjah where as well I spoke about my university with the students.



I think, I had enough opportunities to promote my university.

## Kultur

- It was my first time to stay in an Arab country. Being an Indian, I did know a little about their culture.
- However, it was hard to understand that, they pray five times a day wherever they are.
- There is a huge difference in cultures of Europeans and Arabic people.
- I was quite amazed by the different ways of greeting acquaintances, relatives, friends and strangers.
- Also, that girls and boys have their different campus in the same university like two libraries, two sports complexes, labs for girls and boys respectively.



- I was quite surprised to know that, they pray once before the sunrise everyday which could be really hard for everyone.
- Also, I found that all the girls have to wear Abaya which is in a way was sad given they are beautiful.
- Also, boys and girls are not allowed to interact in the campus so often.



## Tipps und Vorschläge für zukünftige Studierende

- My Visa, arrival, accommodation was organized by university of Sharjah hence, I did not face any issues with it. However, this may not be the case every time. There could be a possibility that you may have to organize all of these yourself. You should also purchase foreign health insurance for the entire duration of stay.
- Read about the culture, rules and restrictions to be followed while behaving with any other person.
- Interact with other interns with different nationalities and socialize with the locals to learn more about their lifestyle, culture and enjoy spending time with them.
- Take some efforts to learn Arabic language.
- Also, take enough currency required to be spent for the first month since, you receive the salary only after the first month.
- Also, make sure you have visa for whole duration of your internship, otherwise you may be asked to pay a huge amount if the visa is expired.
- I didn't receive any other scholarships and my living expenses were approx. 3000 dirhams per month.



## Das Leben danach...

- I have been staying alone in Germany for two years, hence sharing an apartment with other Europeans have been just wonderful. I made great friends and got to know them well.
- I understood more about Spanish, Serbian, Greece culture as well.
- I do not see myself working in Middle East for a longer period in the future. It was a short and wonderful experience.
- Knowing a little about an Arabic country at this age was nice and exploring the country during the pleasant climate was satisfying.

## Anything else?

- There are several places to visit in the months of November-December. Global village, Miracle garden and many more places are open only during winters. Many recreational activities are available such as Kayaking in Hatta-Oman border, Cycling on formula one racing track, watching Rugby championships, skiing in the Mall of Emirates, Hiking in Ras-al-Khaimah mountains, snorkeling in Fujairah Islands, Desert safaris, Kite flying on the beach and many more.
- You could also visit Oman, India, Sri Lanka with proper planning and small budget.
- Transportation is pretty expensive, it would be much better to do car pooling wherever you can. Dubai is a very happening place with an international atmosphere. For a night life, people go to Dubai. Abu Dhabi is a silent Emirate, Al-ain is a cheaper Emirate and Sharjah is a family place. For crossing each Emirate it costs 20 aed extra for taxis. Metros are available only in Dubai.
- Best time to visit the country and explore would definitely be November-December.
- Have a great time if you visit the country!

