



Project Activities

DICAMP students in Exeter and Leipzig

The DICAMP students Imen Beljid and Mahmoud Nacef are staying at the University of Exeter for their master thesis, Meriem Ben Hadj Ali, and Zied Ouerghi are staying at the University of Leipzig. How are they doing? They tell us about their experiences.

What are you doing in your thesis?

Meriem: My master thesis, in collaboration with Zied, is about designing and developing a web based tool which can extract companies' textual data from the web and transform it to a business model canvas. Although we were attached administratively to the University of Leipzig, we worked with Fraunhofer MOEZ in this project...

Zied: ...this project is an innovation in the business modeling field.



Imen and Mahmoud at the University of Exeter

Mahmoud: As a topic, I chose "Learning from Failures" and I tried to focus on the telecommunication sector view of my background (I am a telecommunication engineer by education).

Imen: I also prepared my master dissertation about "Learning from Innovation Failure". This enabled me to collaborate with innovation experts in the Business School.

How did you like it and the city of Exeter/Leipzig?

Mahmoud: The University of Exeter is a wonderful place! There are all types of facilities like an open access to the library, english courses, entertainment facilities, etc. To describe the city of Exeter in one word - fantastic, despite of exorbitant costs of living. The weather is warm and Exeter's citizens are friendly.



Meriem and Zied at the zoo of Leipzig, ...

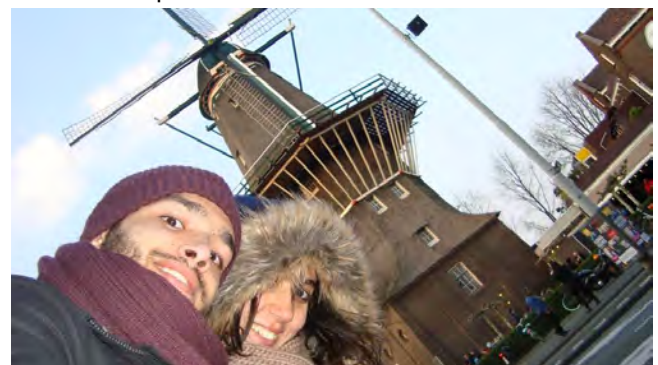
Zied: Doing this project in Leipzig was a unique experience. After having lived here only for a few months, I do not believe that another city in the world can attract me more than Leipzig. This city has a secret, I don't know if it's because it's calm or well organized or maybe because of the friendliness of its inhabitants. Seriously, I felt as if I left my country on May 15th when I left Leipzig.

Meriem: From all the cities I saw I preferred Leipzig, not because it's the most beautiful, but maybe because it's the city where life is most simple and natural and also because there is one of the greatest zoos in Europe and I LOVE ANIMALS.

Imen: I appreciate Exeter. It is SO GREEN!!!! It is a small and friendly city with nice and relaxed people. You will never be lost in Exeter :) and you should not be surprised if you meet a squirrel or a cony, they are also friendly :)

What else did you see/visit during your time in Great Britain or Germany?

Zied: During this three months Meriem and I visited some other cities with Meriem: Berlin, Dresden, Paris, Brest, Brussels, Amsterdam and finally Prague. It was like an EU trip!



...and at a Dutch windmill



An impression from the campus in Exeter

Imen: I visited London - a pool of historical monuments! It is an amazing city. Three days were not enough to discover it well. But I went to the Buckingham palace, the Big Ben, the Tower Bridge, and Mme Tussauds.

Mahmoud: Me too, I visited London. It was a great journey.

What was your best experience?

Mahmoud: My best experience was to make new friends from foreign countries!

Meriem: For me this experience was so rich academically and professionally, but the most important was to discover a new country by rubbing shoulders with German people. Before coming, I had the idea that Germans, and especially East-Germans are hard to deal with. I don't know if I was lucky to meet adorable and lovely people or if I came with prejudices, but now I'm pretty sure that the second alternative seems to be the good answer.



Imen in front of Exeter Business School

Imen: The funniest experience was about crossing a road! They drive at the left side and everything is the opposite of what I had in mind. Thank God, I was walking and not driving!!!



Zied: I remember the long night we spent working and joking, the football game, the dinners in our flats, the karaoke,... everyday had a unique moment. But I can tell you a short story which increased adrenaline. When we came back from Amsterdam, after 11h or more of bus trip, we arrived in Berlin. Before coming, we had checked the prices of tickets to Leipzig and it was around 8€. Having arrived in Berlin we had only 16€ left for the two of us. Bad news - the tickets were at

What do you think is the major difference between Germany/the UK and Tunisia?



Mahmoud in London's China Town

Mahmoud: The major difference is people. Honestly, I am sad to say that, but British people are more respectful than Tunisian people.

Thank you Mahmoud, Imen, Meriem, and Zied for taking the time and sharing your experiences.