

An international student's view

EPC Congress & Conference
12th and 13th April 2011 at
LSBU

Olga Katsanova

MEng Civil Engineering
with Study in Europe

About me

- Born in Estonia 1987
- Bilingual upbringing
Estonian/Russian
- 1994-2006 Kohtla-Jarve
Jarve Gymnasium
- Came to Manchester in
September 2006



Why UK?

- Internationally recognised qualification
- Great variety of courses
- Opportunity to study in English
- Good future career prospects

Why Manchester?

- Big & vibrant city
- Large student population (home, EU and overseas)
- University with a good reputation
- Direct flights from Tallinn

My journey 2006-2011

Prior to year 1:

Spring 2006

State Examinations in Estonia:

Mathematics 78%, Physics 91%,

English 79%, Estonian 94% &

Russian 100%

IELTS test: 7.5 out of 9

Summer 2006

Working as an au-pair in Cork,
Ireland

Academic year 2006/2007

Foundation Year for Engineering

Year 1-4:

Sept. 2007 – June 2011

MEng Civil Engineering with
Study in Europe

Academic year 2009/2010

Exchange year at TUHH,
Germany

Summer placements

2008: City Planner's Assistant,
Narva-Joesuu, Estonia

2009: Research Assistant at
RWTH Aachen, Germany

How does the UK compare?

Germany

- Bachelor's – 3 years
- Master's – 2 years
- Assessment: exam based
- High quality teaching; very technical and in depth. Sometimes too theoretical
- Long exam periods
- Some subjects available in English
- Opportunities to work as research assistants at university or part-time in companies

UK

- Bachelor's – 3 years
- Master's – 1 year
- Assessment – coursework, exams, projects
- Teaching – lectures, tutorials, labs
- A lot of emphasis on transferable skills
- Intensive semester time, but a lot of holidays
- Summer placements - organised by students

Exchange Year in Hamburg University of Technology (TUHH)

What did I gain from the experience?

- German language skills
- Erasmus grant and no tuition fees
- Life-skills & transferable skills
- International network of friends
- Experience different student life and study system
- Access to a wider range of subjects
- Great addition to a CV
- A lot of fun

TUHH

Technische Universität Hamburg-Harburg



Studying in the UK

- Finance
- Student Support
- Facilities
- Clubs and Societies
- Highlights



Finance

- Tuition fees – EU same as for home students
- Living expenses – very high
- Student loan UK
- Student loan Estonia
- No-other grants received
- Full-time work in Summer
- Part-time work during term time



Student Support

- Induction Week
- Student Service Centre
- Personal Tutor
- Lecturer's open door policy
- PASS – peer assisted study sessions
- Careers Service
- Workshops
- etc



Facilities

- Excellent library
- Well equipped labs
- Great computational facilities
- Access to various software
- E-resources
- Online teaching and learning



Clubs and Societies

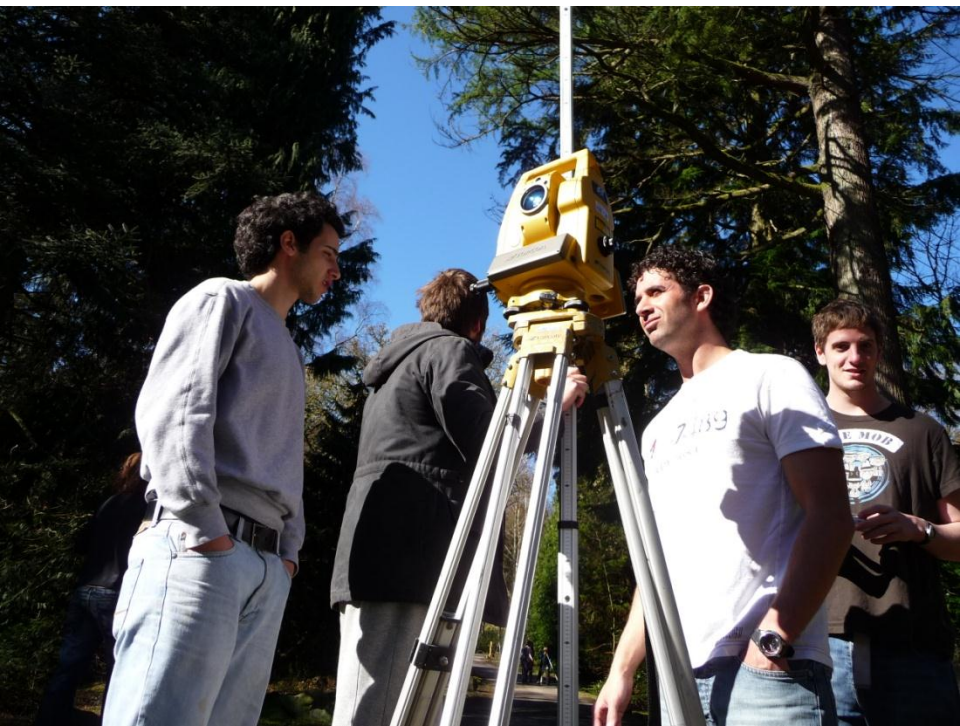
- CCS – Civil and Construction Society
- EWB – Engineers Without Borders
- Student Ambassador
- Estonian Society
- Sports
- Gospel Choir & Salsa
- and many other



Fieldtrip

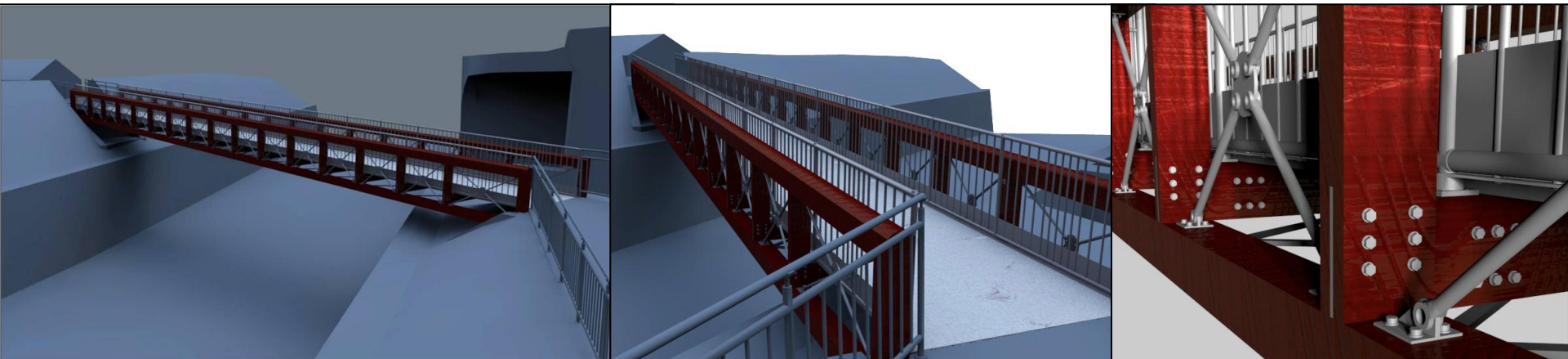
Year 2

Surveying and design of a hydro-electric power station in Lake District



Fourth Year Group Design Project

- Design of a footbridge in a protected heritage site
- Industrial supervisor Mott Macdonald



Ready to graduate?

- Great job perspectives around the world
- Cultural awareness
- Life-changing experience
- Language skills
- Transferable skills
- Debt !!!



Any Questions?



Erasmus



Mix it up

Talk to your Erasmus co-ordinator to find out more about studying or working abroad or visit www.erasmus.mixitup.co.uk

The Erasmus Cosmopolitan A Cultural Cocktail

- ↗ A refreshing and exciting blend of different cultures, people and places
- ↗ Top up with a generous shot of utter delight
- ↗ Mix a desire for opportunity with a splash of independence
- ↗ Enjoy with all your new friends in vibrant places to quench your thirst for adventure
- ↗ Add equal measures of courage and curiosity
- ↗ Erasmus — a riveting experience that will stay on your palate for years to come!

