

P. G. DEMIDOV YAROSLAVL STATE UNIVERSITY

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**What motivates me to get MSc degree in  
Europe**

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Two years ago I started to work in Yaroslavl FRUCT Laboratory. It was the beginning of my research work. I took part in different interesting projects, communicated with interesting people, including people from Europe, participated in international conferences. Work in laboratory significantly improved not only my professional skills, but communication and English language skills too. It was my first connection with Europe, and it gave me great deal of knowledge. Thanks to the laboratory I learned about opportunities for studying abroad and have begun to think about this. Work in laboratory expanded my horizons, and now I am looking forward to expand them more.

This year I will graduate from the P. G. Yaroslavl State University and will get a specialist degree in applied mathematics and computer science. And there are a lot of ways for my future: to start working in industry, to start my own small business or to get master's degree and continue scientific activity. I chose the last way, because it can help me to gain more knowledge, to learn many new interesting things. Besides, I can continue study not only in my university, but in any other, including universities abroad. And the possibility of graduation from overseas university attracts me most of all.

Answering the question "What motivates me to get MSc degree in Europe?" I can mention several reasons. First of all, of course, it is the quality of education, that is very high in Europe. The big advantage of studying in Europe is the focus on the study of new, modern technologies and close cooperation with industry.

Studying in Europe will let me significantly improve the knowledge of English language, because all lectures and study will be conducted in this language. Besides, living in Europe will also help me to improve language knowledge and skills, because English language will be the only way for me in Europe to communicate with people. High knowledge of the language in its turn will allow me to easily communicate with people around the world. It will allow me to go abroad to study or work in any point of the world, because English language is de-facto a language, that is used all around the world.

Studying in Europe also means living in Europe. And it is one more thing, that motivates me to get MSc degree in Europe. Acquaintance with Europe from the inside will help to know more about its history,, culture, people, their mentality and lifestyle. This will greatly expand my horizons, and maybe will change my opinion on some of the things.

Living in Europe will also bring me new personal contacts. I am sure that communication with this people will be very interesting. Because they grew up in a completely different country and on many things they have opinion that differs from mine.

One more advantage of living in Europe is small size of its countries (comparing to Russia) and open borders. So it is possible living in one Europe country to go to the other for a weekend, for example. And I will have a chance to get acquainted with several countries.

In November 2012 I participated in the 12th Conference of Open Innovations Association FRUCT, that was held in University of Oulu. It is the second best university and one of the largest universities in Finland. I was only in the main campus of the university, that is located in Linnanmaa. I very like it, the campus building is very beautiful and it is really the work of art. Being in that university I have been excited about its structure. It was like a small city with local shops, cafes, libraries and etc. I did not ever see such universities in Russia, but I know, that most of Europe universities have the same structure. And I am really want to know — how it is to study in such university, to “live” in such “city”. And that is one more thing, that motivates me to get MSc degree in Europe.

But there are also some barriers, that can alienate people from studying abroad. First of all, of course, it is the language barrier. I think it is the most important barrier, especially for Russian students. Studying abroad means, that all the communications will be in English. You will listen lectures, ask questions, read textbooks, write papers, speak with classmates, professors and your supervisor, and all of it in English. And that is not all, you should use English outside university too, for example to speak with shop assistant in the shop or waiter or barman in the cafe. Most people in Russia do not know English language at all or know it very bad. In contrast, in most European countries people fluently speak English language. It is not problem to go in cafe or shop, for example in Helsinki, and ask something in English. You can be sure, that you will get an answer for your question. And quite different situation in Russia, where question in English with the big share of probability will be leaved without answer. And it is the issue of education in Russia. It is the big problem for student, that want to study abroad, because school and university can not give them necessary knowledge of English language.

As for me, I started to visit study group of English language on the second grade of primary school. This group was out of the school and my parents have to pay for it. Also I learned the language independently at home by reading and translating books and articles in English. At that time I got very involved in music. Especially I very liked the music of Finnish rock band HIM (to tell the truth, I still very like them). So I spend hours translating lyrics of their songs and reading different articles about the band. Then I started to listen other English-speaking bands and translate their songs too. I started to play the guitar, and most of all I liked (and still it is so) to play and sing songs in English, I started to write my own songs in English. And this was

the base for my English language skills. At the school my knowledge of English language was much more better, than knowledge of my classmates. And now working in Yaroslavl FRUCT Laboratory helps me to improve my knowledge of the language in different ways. The working language in our laboratory is English, so we create projects and write articles in English. We use English language for communication with colleagues. And thanks to all of it, now I can almost easily communicate with English speaking people. So I think, I have overcome the language barrier.

Another barrier, that I see for studying abroad, concerned with living abroad. Some of students live with their parents. It means that all the household duties separated between family members. And studying abroad entails living without parents, that means that you should take care about all the household duties. Some students may be unwilling to do this. But I think, that this barrier is very needed. Overcoming it is the first big step into adult independent life. So for me, this barrier is one more thing that motivates me to study abroad.

Living abroad also means that you will live far away from your family and friends. And it is one more barrier for studying abroad. Everybody loves their family and friends, and living far away from them can be very difficult. Of course, you can communicate with them via Skype or phone calls, but it still cannot replace the live contact. So, I think it is the most hard and difficult barrier.

The cost of studying abroad can also be a barrier. Although cost of education in Europe is not very high, it is still expensive for some Russian students. Besides you should pay not only for education, but for different indirect costs, like payment for the rented apartment or a room, expenses on food and other products, transportation expenses for the flight to the Europe and back home. Of course, some of them can be covered by scholarship, but not all. Also some universities do not provide scholarships to foreign students.

The last barrier can be overcome by study exchange programs. Such programs provide help for students to study abroad. It is not only the financial assistance, but also assistance in the organization of residence, educational process and cooperation. Thanks to the FRUCT I know two such programs: NordSecMob and EIT ICT Labs Masters School.

NordSecMob is a two-year Master of Science degree programme in Security and Mobile Computing. It is one of the European top-quality Masters Courses. NordSecMob provides the opportunity for getting MSc degree at two of the five universities: Aalto University in Finland, KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Sweden, the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), the Technical University of Denmark (DTU) and University of Tartu (UT) in Esto-

nia. The award for completing two-year programme is two officially recognized MSc degrees: one from each university where student studied at. Key areas for this programme are network applications and services, information security, and mobile networking. Students, applied for NordSecMob, gain both practical engineering skills and theoretical insight, including capability to follow and apply the latest scientific research. The graduates are equipped to be employed internationally in a wide range of industrial and academic jobs, including expert roles, R&D, research and management positions. It is also possible for a NordSecMob graduate to continue academic career towards the doctoral level. It is also very important, that this programme covers lot of expenditures, including contribution to travel, insurance coverage and etc. NordSecMob also provides very high scholarship for its students, that is 1000 € per month. Such scholarship allows students to cover their indirect costs.

EIT ICT Labs Masters School is also a two-year Master of Science degree programme, created by EIT ICT Labs. EIT ICT Labs is one of the first Knowledge and Innovation Communities set up by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology, which main aim is to bring together researchers, academics and business people. Like the NordSecMob programme, EIT ICT Labs Masters School also provides the opportunity for getting MSc degree at two universities, but the range of universities you can choose from is more. It consists of 19 universities from 8 Europe countries. The applicants for EIT ICT Labs Masters School can choose from seven technical majors:

- Digital Media Technology,
- Distributed Systems and Services,
- Embedded Systems,
- Human Computer Interaction and Design,
- Internet Technology and Architecture,
- Security and Privacy,
- Service Design and Engineering.

Students, applied for this programme, will get not only the opportunity to study at the University, but also the opportunity to work in one of the EIT ICT Labs. So graduates will be awarded not only two officially recognized MSc degrees, but also an EIT ICT Labs Master's Certificate. EIT ICT Labs Masters School also offers guaranteed industry or institute internships for students, a

direct connection to a project manager and the opportunity to take part in an on-going projects. Each student is assigned a personal mentor in a management position at an EIT ICT Labs business partner, and provided regular interviews with the mentor and opportunities to follow the mentor's daily work. Like the NordSecMob, EIT ICT Labs Masters School also offers coverage of education and traveling costs. Students of this programme can pretend to a high scholarship, that is 900 € per month.

For me both programs are very attractive. The most attractive thing is that after two years I can get not only one, but two MSc degrees from two different universities in Europe. I also like it, because studying in two universities means traveling between cities or even countries. So during the education I can become acquainted with more than one city. And of course high funding of this programs also attracts me. But choosing from this two programs I prefer EIT ICT Labs Masters School. It gives me more freedom, than NordSecMob, because I can choose the technical major, in which I will graduate. It also attracts me because of its close cooperation with industry. I very like the idea of mentoring and I really want to try it. I also want to participate in project provided by EIT ICT Labs.

To conclude my essay I want to mention one more thing, that motivates me to get MSc degree in Europe. I want to study in Europe to prove myself, that I can do this, that there are nothing impossible and all that is needed is just to exert yourself. I always thought that it is impossible for me. I read articles about studying abroad that was written by russian students, that went there, but I always thought that it is not about me. And now I really have an opportunity to get MSc degree in Europe. And I feel that I really can do this. And I will do my best to reach this goal, to make my dream come true.