

# The Double Degree Experience

by Dorin Andoni



# Shortly about me

I am Dorin, one of the lucky 3 students (in 2022/2023) to be accepted into the double degree program between the University of Duisburg-Essen and University of Bologna, receiving the DAAD full scholarship. After finishing my bachelor studies in Mechanical Engineering at UDE, I directly applied for this program, covering the Mechatronics (UDE) and Automotive/Motorcycle (UniBo) fields.



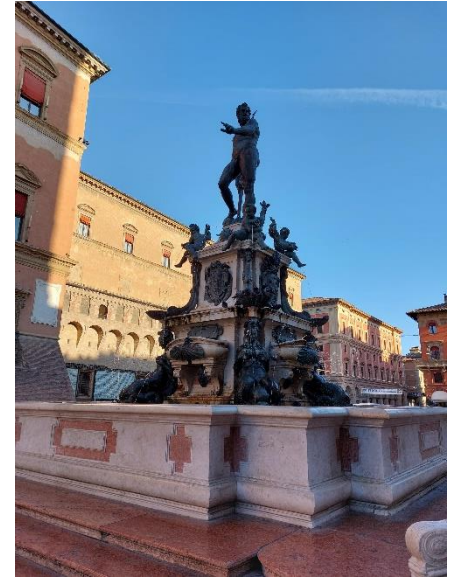
# Before arrival in Bologna

- The lectures and exam periods are not synchronised, so I gave my best to pass the needed exams in Duisburg, while ensuring that I have at least a temporary place to stay
- Plane tickets are relatively accessible, check Ryanair and Eurowings – alternatively train to Munich and then to Bologna
- I did not do it, but I recommend to future students of the program – be active in advance in Facebook groups for finding a place to stay and **be careful** – there are scammers!
- I packed my bags including a raincoat – you may expect rainy days in NRW and not in sunny Bologna, but you may be surprised!



# The city of Bologna

- Vibrant and with red/orange light, the city greeted me with good weather and stunning views from an early morning on my first day
- Adjust your surroundings appreciation - emotional discussions, buzzing cafes, and lots of tasty food - expected and verified by yours truly



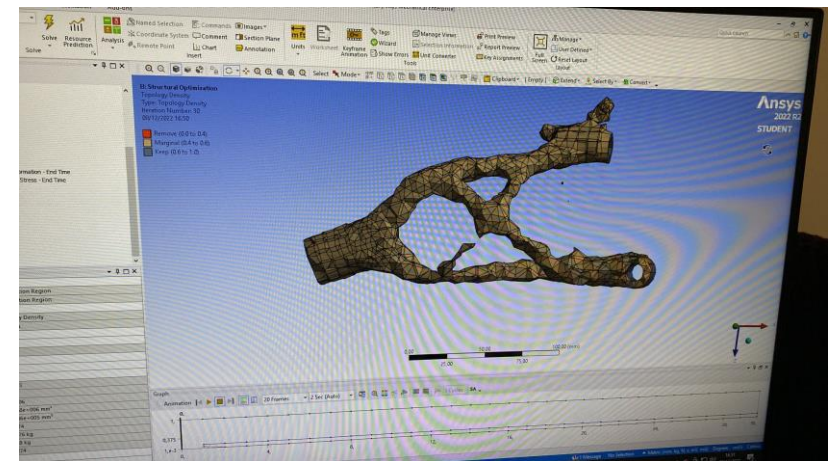
# Extra pictures, of course





# The academic experience I

- Compressed in a shorter time, the first semester took me by surprise with a full schedule
- Challenges start early on, so two big group projects for the whole semester commenced (including the most exciting - vehicle design!)
- For future participants: be creative, communicate with your fellow colleagues and trust the process!



# Short break

- At least for 1 year, you study at UDE, so you are familiar with the Mensa
- With slightly higher prices, the engineering campus in Bologna also has one - big portions and sometimes free desserts are a plus, beside the Italian touch!
- With a full schedule in the first semester, exam periods, and thesis later - it is/was a lifesaver



# The academic experience II

- The second semester finds one relieved after the exam session, but do not get lazy - the second one starts soon and internship/internship+ thesis opportunities must be found
- I found a professor who had a great internship and thesis topic proposal - although not in a company, you get hands-on experience too!
- I enjoyed especially a CAD lab/lecture, very vital for engineers
- **Great bonus:** you have more appointments per semester to take a single exam and dates to defend your thesis from summer to next spring!





# Free time

- There are plenty of things to discover, in the city and nearby - also for the digestive system!
- I visited Rimini to glimpse the sea, and Maranello to see the famous rising black horse cars - no name needed
- You are in the **Motor Valley** - you hear and see it too
- I was lucky and who knows what the professor for vehicle design has in store, but for some weeks, the lectures were held by the Ferrari Chief Designer



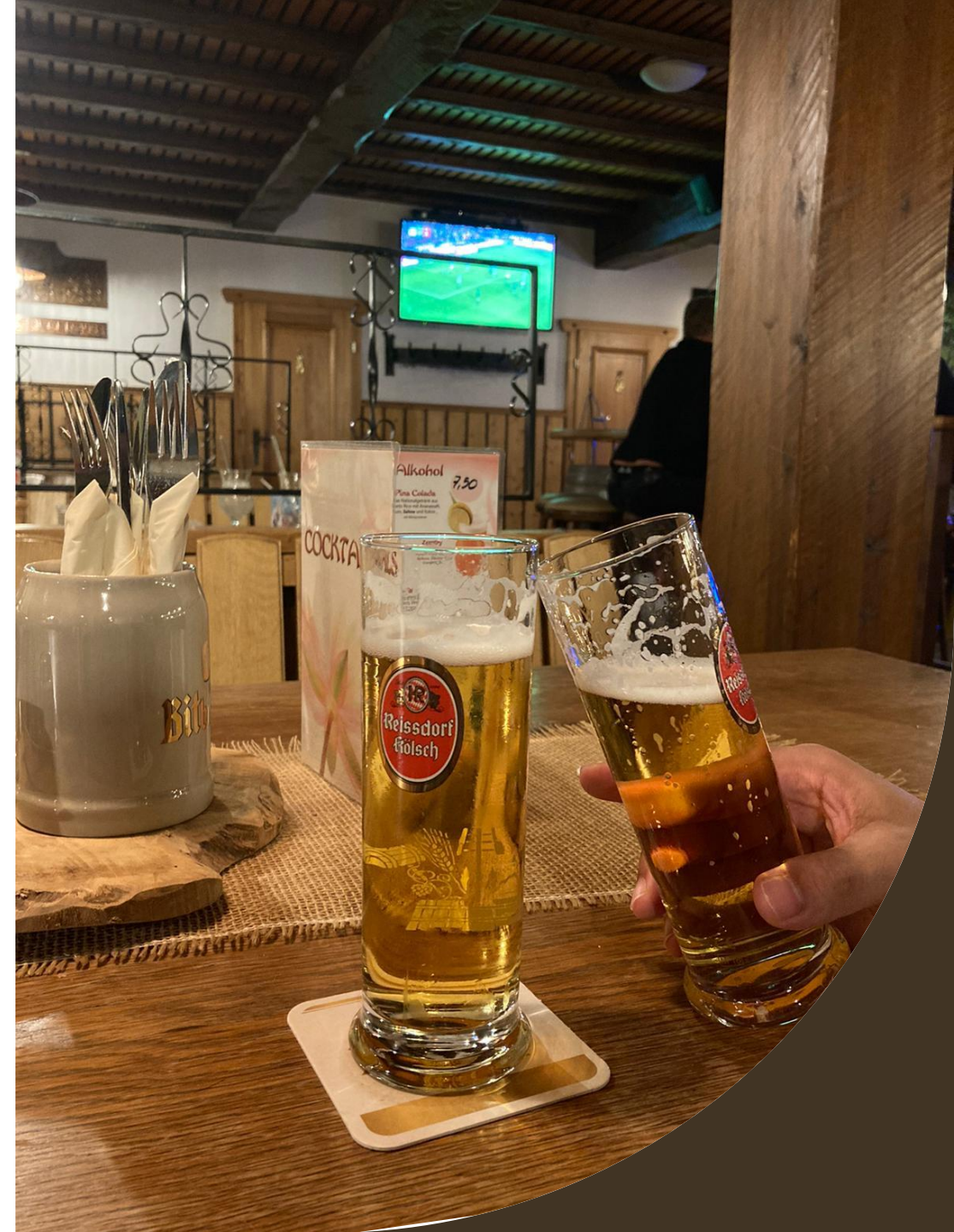
# Extra pictures, again





# What have I missed?

- I missed Germany, not possible to find a good Kölsch anywhere in Italy ;(
- Missed my friends and other important people in my life, but one is not far away and I was lucky to meet new amazing people and had the best support from my other two bright colleagues from UDE and home university itself!





# How it ended

- One year went quickly, as they seem to go after reaching 22
- Challenges were converted into memories and good work is rewarded with a happy end - but make it **double**
- After a successful thesis defence, more roads are open ahead of me due to this **amazing opportunity**, so I can only recommend you to **APPLY** for this program and do your best while enjoying your own efforts

It pays off!!!

