

TUHH-Erfahrungsbericht - Studium im Ausland

04.02.2025

Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras), Indien 2024/2025, WS 2024/25

Programm: Overseas

Aufenthalt: 29.07.2024 - 31.12.2024

Studiengang: Information and Communication Systems, EQF-Level 2

Studiendekanat: Electrical Engineering, Computer Science
and Mathematics

I am Prashant Gode, a master's student at TUHH (Technische Universität Hamburg), specializing in Information and Communication Systems (ICS). I spent one semester as an exchange student at IIT Madras in the Electrical Engineering department, where I worked on a research project on Wi-Fi for long-range internet in rural areas and studied advanced Wireless Communication concepts, including 4G and 5G technologies. I learned about the exchange semester program through an email from the TUHH International Office. After checking the TUHH website for details, I also read experiences of previous students who had studied at IIT Madras. This helped me understand the process and expectations before applying. The application process involved two stages. First, I applied to the TUHH International Office, selecting three universities as preferences. After TUHH nominated me for IIT Madras, I submitted a formal application to the IIT Madras Office of Global Engagement, following their instructions. Once my application was processed, I received the official nomination letter from IIT Madras, allowing me to proceed with my exchange semester. I applied for this exchange opportunity to gain exposure to a new academic environment, expand my Wireless Communication knowledge, and engage in practical research. The semester exceeded my expectations, allowing me to work on meaningful projects, interact with top faculty, and experience a new learning culture.

For future exchange students, I recommend:

- ✓ Stay updated on university emails and websites for exchange opportunities.
- ✓ Read past student experiences to understand the process.
- ✓ Apply early to avoid last-minute issues.
- ✓ Follow application steps carefully for smooth processing.
- ✓ Make the most of your time abroad by engaging in research, networking, and exploring new learning methods.

The exchange semester at IIT Madras was an enriching experience, both academically and personally. I highly encourage students to take advantage of such programs to broaden their knowledge, enhance research skills, and build global connection.

IIT Madras provides on-campus hostel accommodation for exchange students, offering single rooms at a monthly rent of approximately 6,000 INR (around 65 EUR). The accommodation includes free internet access, but students need to purchase their own router and Ethernet cable for connectivity. For food, students can choose between daily meal coupons or a monthly mess pass, which costs around 6,000 INR per month. There are around 8 to 10 different mess halls, offering North Indian and South Indian cuisine, and students can buy a pass for any of them based on their preference. There is a one-time administrative fee of approximately 40,000 INR (around 435 EUR), which covers various institutional charges. Additionally, since motorbikes are not allowed for master's and bachelor's students within the campus, purchasing a bicycle is necessary for commuting, which costs around 5,000 INR (about 55 EUR).

The total estimated cost for a semester, including rent, food, and fees, comes to approximately 120,000 INR (around 1,300 EUR) for five to six months. Other monthly expenses include mobile and internet costs outside campus, which range from 500 to 800 INR (7 to 10 EUR), and personal expenses such as groceries and outings, which typically range between 2,000 and 4,000 INR (25 to 50 EUR). Local transportation costs are minimal as most commuting is done within the campus. There is no semester ticket included, as transport within IIT Madras is mainly by bicycle or institute buses. It is recommended to book accommodation early, plan a budget to cover administrative and living expenses, buy a bicycle for convenient commuting, and explore different mess options for food. Living costs at IIT Madras are relatively affordable, and the on-campus accommodation provides a comfortable experience for exchange students.

Upon arrival at IIT Madras, the first step is to go directly to the Mandakini Hostel, where exchange students need to drop off their luggage and complete the required registration formalities. This includes filling out forms, showing their passport for verification, and paying the hostel fees in CCW office. After completing the hostel check-in, the next step is to visit the Office of Global Engagement, which can be reached by taking the campus bus. At the Office of Global Engagement, students typically meet Marissa or Caroline, who provide further instructions regarding administrative procedures. Exchange students also need to visit the CCW (Centre for Campus Welfare) Office to purchase food coupons or a monthly mess pass for dining at the campus mess halls. After this, students must visit the administration office to pay the required semester fees. Within a few days, students receive their student ID card, which is essential for accessing various campus facilities.

There is an orientation program organized by the Office of Global Engagement, where exchange students can meet each other and get essential information about campus life. During this program, students receive a welcome kit containing useful materials and guidance to help them settle in. There is no structured student group such as ESN at IIT Madras, but for any issues or questions, students can always visit the Office of Global Engagement, where the staff is helpful and responsive. Additionally, local students at IIT Madras are friendly and willing to assist, making it easy to ask for help when needed. The arrival process is well-structured, with clear steps for registration, fee payments, food arrangements, and orientation, ensuring that exchange students can quickly settle into campus life at IIT Madras.

I studied in the Department of Electrical Engineering at IIT Madras. Course registration was done through the Workflow Portal and Moodle, where students could enroll in their chosen courses. There was also an option to deregister from courses after the first quiz (Quiz 1 exam) if necessary. The language of instruction was English, making it accessible for international students. I took Advanced Concepts of Wireless Communication, Technology Foresight and Innovation, and a Research Project. The courses were well-structured and provided a deep understanding of key concepts, especially in wireless communication. The teaching methods included lectures, assignments, quizzes, and hands-on projects, ensuring both theoretical and practical learning. The faculty at IIT Madras are among the best in India, making the learning experience enriching and insightful.

Examinations were conducted in multiple formats, including quizzes, mid-term exams, and final exams, with some courses also having project-based assessments. The academic environment was rigorous but highly rewarding. For future exchange students, I recommend carefully selecting courses that align with your interests and research goals. It is also helpful to attend lectures actively, engage with professors, and participate in discussions to make the most of the academic experience at IIT Madras.

The campus life at IIT Madras is vibrant and full of activities. There are daily events such as social gatherings, arts and cultural programs, and various sports activities, making it easy to connect with other students. The campus is lively, and students are friendly and welcoming. There are several cafés and restaurants on campus where students can relax and socialize. Additionally, the campus has a salon, repair shops, and other essential facilities, making daily life convenient for students. Although there was no regular meet-up or table specifically

for international students, it was easy to get in touch with fellow students by participating in events, joining sports activities, or simply interacting in hostels and academic settings.

For leisure activities, there are beautiful beaches near the campus, which can be reached by bicycle, making for a great weekend outing. The city of Chennai also offers shopping malls, cultural sites, and local markets to explore. For exchange students, I highly recommend participating in campus events, exploring nearby places, and engaging with local students to make the most of the experience. The campus provides a dynamic environment where there is always something happening, ensuring a memorable stay at IIT Madras.

IIT Madras has banks and ATMs on campus, making it easy for students to withdraw cash and manage finances. Opening a bank account is a simple process, and the bank staff on campus are helpful in guiding students through the required steps. For telephone and internet connectivity, students can purchase a local SIM card from providers like Jio, Airtel, or Vi, which offer affordable data and call plans. The hostels provide free internet access, but students need to buy their own router and Ethernet cable for better connectivity in their rooms. Other useful facilities on campus include repair shops, stationery stores, a salon, and various dining options, making everyday tasks convenient. It is recommended to carry some cash initially, but digital payments and card transactions are widely accepted. For exchange students, setting up a bank account and getting a local SIM card early on is advisable to ensure smooth transactions and communication. The overall setup for banking and internet is hassle-free, and the campus provides all the necessary facilities to support international students.

I would like to express my gratitude to TUHH, IIT Madras, and the Office of Global Engagement for providing me with this incredible opportunity and experience. As an Indian national, I know that many JEE aspirants dream of studying at IIT from their 12th standard, and for those who couldn't secure admission earlier, this exchange program offers a chance to be part of the IIT experience. Opportunities come and go, but it is up to us to seize them. I encourage other students to take advantage of this exchange program and spend a semester at IIT Madras. It is a transformative experience that broadens perspectives on culture, academics, and India while leaving a lasting impact on personal and intellectual growth.

Kontakt zu TUHH-Kommilitoninnen und Kommilitonen

Wären Sie bereit Kommilitoninnen und Kommilitonen bei Fragen zu einem ähnlichen Vorhaben in Ihrem Gastland Tipps zu geben?	godeprashant5@gmail.com
Sind Sie damit einverstanden, dass das International Office Ihren Erfahrungsbericht auf Anfrage an ausgewählte Kommilitoninnen und Kommilitonen weitergibt?	YES
Falls für Ihr Studiendekanat eine Stud-IP-Gruppe mit Infomaterial zu Auslandsaufenthalten besteht, darf Ihr Erfahrungsbericht dort zur Verfügung gestellt werden? <i>(Ihr Name steht nicht auf dem Bericht, Ihre Email nur wenn Sie diese selbst eintragen.)</i>	YES
Darf Ihr Erfahrungsbericht auf dem Info-Portal über Mobility-Online zur Verfügung gestellt werden? <i>(Ihr Name steht nicht auf dem Bericht. Ihre Email nur, wenn Sie diese selbst eintragen.)</i>	YES