

## Report on research projects under the IDEA League Student Grant

<i>Personal information</i>			
<b>Full Name:</b>		Kobler, Marco	
<b>Field of study:</b>		Civil engineering / Structural engineering	
<b>Degree pursued:</b>		Master's degree	<b>Current year of studies:</b> 5
<b>Home University:</b>		ETH Zurich	
<b>Sponsoring professor at home university</b>	<b>Name:</b>	Thomas Vogel	
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<i>Information about the research stay</i>			
<b>Host University:</b>		Chalmers tekniska högskola (Chalmers University of Technology) - Göteborg	
<b>Sponsoring professor at host university</b>	<b>Name:</b>	Kamyab Zandi	
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<b>Dates of research stay</b>		<b>from:</b> 15.02.2016	<b>to:</b> 04.07.2016
<b>Summary of the research project</b> (200 words max.)			
<p>In my master's thesis I investigated a bridge deck slab which was loaded by two concentrated loading plates. The aim was to assess the punching capacity of the bridge slab on different levels of accuracy. On initial step the load carrying capacity was determined according to standards as Eurocode or Model code. In a next step linear FE analyses were performed and finally non-linear FE calculations.</p> <p>Since at the ETH we didn't focus on FE modelling it was a new experience for me. The supervision and support during my work was very good. Compared to the ETH in Scandinavia the connection between students and professors are closer since everybody introduces himself with the given name and thus a more relaxed relationship exists.</p>			

## Experience report

*Please tell us about your experience at the host university and give us an evaluation of the benefits of the research stay for the course of your studies*

I went to Gothenburg to write my master's thesis there. Since it was my last semester of study, it was also my last opportunity to go abroad within an exchange program. After studying 5 months in Gothenburg I can summarize that it was definitely the right decision. The benefits of staying abroad are immense. Thus you get in touch with a new culture and educational system, you will meet many new people and you can broaden your horizon by exploring a new country. Last but not least while staying abroad, your English knowledge will improve a lot.

Gothenburg is a student city with approximately 90'000 students and consequently a good student culture. After school you can spend your leisure time in parks, taking the ferry to a beautiful island at Archipelago or after work you can enjoy the after-work tradition. Thereby, in some restaurants or pubs you get food for free if you buy something to drink.

A disadvantage is that generally the beer is pretty expensive in Scandinavia. But if you know the right places (Andra langgatan is the student street) you get the beer there for similar prizes as in Switzerland.

Regarding the student accommodation I recommend to look for it early. The waiting queue for apartments is very long, but as an exchange students sometimes they take you in front of the line. In my case I was very lucky in finding an apartment. Since I was very late I asked in the student exchange office at Chalmers if they could give me some good advice in finding an apartment. The woman there was very friendly and told me that she would ask at SGS (office which rents student apartments) for me. The next day I got the great news that there would be an apartment free and so I got my apartment faster as expected.

## Picture

*Please provide a picture of you at the guest university*

