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Baden-Württemberg International

Asan, Eeva and Mia

“ The networking among the **international students is very close here"**

International Master of Landscape Architecture, Nürtingen University, http://www.imla.de/

Asan, Eeva and Mia sit on a bench on campus and discuss their sketches and concepts of a virtually planned quarter in Reutlingen, Baden-Württemberg. The three students are about 30 years old and lead an extremely mobile life. They meet at least three times a year at three different places in central Europe and then work intensely together for about a month. Afterwards they either go back home to work on their job in Finland and Singapore, or they travel and work in Germany. All three are landscape planners. They do have a good deal working experience within their own country, but they wanted more: “Many European landscape architecture offices are relatively small and do not work beyond the region in which they are located. The opening of EU borders provides new opportunities in the area of work acquisition and employment as a consequence”, says IMLA Professor Roman Lenz from the Nürtingen-Geislingen University. His classes make international students fit for the global future of landscape architecture.

In a joint education program three campuses in Rapperswil, Switzerland, Weihenstephan, Bavaria and Nürtingen, Baden-Württemberg, offer the “International Master of Landscape Architecture”. The offerings are “bridging Europe” and thus lead to an intensive exchange between the participants, both with regard to planning methods and on a personal level. The classes include the fundamental principles of the areas of “Planning in Europe”, “Planning and Project Management” and “Digital Planning Methods”.

“We work very hard and have very little free time. But there are still some opportunities to go shopping. Stuttgart, the city next to our campus in Nürtingen, is the “best place in the world to go shopping”, they agree. Since they come from metropolises such as Singapore or Helsinki and since they regularly visit Zurich and Munich they are experts and have the comparison.

“Being so centrally located in Europe the course broadens the perspective immensely”, says Asan from Singapore. He can refer to an impressive work portfolio of his landscape architecture projects so far. The opportunity to study on an international level will provide him excellent chances for the future. All classes in Nürtingen are held in English. Thus, the students don’t have to learn more than very basic German to get around. Living in Switzerland, Bavaria and Swabia during the

study modules of one year, “we would have to learn three languages”, says Asan with a smile. The dialects in the regions appear to him as different languages…

“The networking among the international students is very close here in Nürtingen”, says Mia. “Since we get together and go apart several times a year, it is always a great “hello” when we get back together. We organize ourselves and go on tours whenever it is possible.“
“I didn’t expect so much benefit from the other students”, says Mia, who had been a gardener before she studied landscape design in Finland and Canada. The classes and sessions are based on discussions among professionals all coming from different countries and different special areas. That is what makes the IMLA unique.

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