



Sridhar Poosapadi Arjunan, 27 years, India

"In Baden-Württemberg, they make the flow of ideas possible."

**Ph.D. student, research at Berufskademie Stuttgart
(University of Cooperative Education),
<http://www.ba-stuttgart.de>**

The 27 years old student is certainly widely travelled. Born in Tamil Nadu, India, he started his studies in Engineering, Electronics and Communication at University of Madras and completed his Masters in Engineering at Madurai Kamaraj University.

In February 2005 he went to RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia to work on his PhD. A little more than a year later, the researcher received a Baden-Württemberg scholarship and captured a third continent: Europe. He spent six months at the University of Cooperative Education (BA) in Stuttgart, with intermissions in Portugal and France.

"In Stuttgart there was a different culture compared to India and Australia. People are easier to get along with. They seem to combine the Indian values with Western precision", he believes. He also encountered great helpfulness when facing language problems. Although Sridhar speaks four languages, German is not among them. Above all, he was amazed at the German work culture in research. "I saw this at the University here. Many people were interested to listen to my research presentation and they discussed with me some ideas even if it was not their field", Sridhar says.

With Sridhar's research in the future a full conversation can be captured electronically – simply by studying the facial muscles of the speakers. "The particular advantage of the stay in Germany was the availability of German native speakers, who were participants for experiments with their mother language and their first foreign language which is English", explains Sridhar. Further to this, "In the University, there is less bureaucracy and researchers are more open and approachable, making the flow of ideas possible. And then you have the best industry, which means that there is a possibility of the research to be applied."

Sridhar all around enjoyed his stay in Baden-Württemberg, he loved the world's highest television tower and the trip to the Swabian Alb. He liked the Swabian life style in terms of research and leisure time but one thing he enjoyed particularly: "The German wheat beer was super!"

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Baden-Württemberg

The German Southwest.