

EU-Canada Student Mobility Program
Personal Experience
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I feel lucky to be given the opportunity to participate in the Eu-Canada Academic Program, C&CofMARS (Control and Coordination of Multi-Agent Robotics System). I was chosen to live in Vancouver, Canada and to study at Simon Fraser University in the spring of 2010.

During my stay, I lived in one of the townhouses at SFU campus. In my opinion, it is better to live on campus rather than in



Illustration 1: SFU Townhouses

city, because you have more chances to make friends. The whole campus is founded on the beautiful Burnaby Mountain. It is a huge complex and the best part that it is that you are surrounded with beautiful nature: everywhere you turn you can see trees, and to the north you can find a bay. The city is surrounded by snowy mountains. It is incredible the closeness of the ocean and the

mountains. I enjoyed the weather, because here it is more warmer than at home, but I didn't enjoy the frequent rains.



Illustration 2: SFU Campus



Illustration 3: SFU Academic Quadrangle

Vancouver is a coastal city located in British Columbia, Canada. It is just such an amazing city. I loved it's energy,

citizens. In the first days, with the help of the Global Partnering System, we visited the city's main attractions, it's famous districts, buildings.



Illustration 4: Panorama of Vancouver

I loved China Town, Gas Town with it's old buildings and of course downtown with the sky scrapers. It is a big city, and it's dimension can be sometimes annoying, but I have to admit that traveling by Sky Train helps to cover the big distances.



Illustration 5: Downtown Vancouver

I believe we arrived to Canada in the best part of the year because the 2010 Winter Olympics started in February. It was thrilling to be there and enjoy the excitement. The city was filled with tourists which came a long distance to cheer for their nation's

Olympics team. We were luck enough to see the Olympic Torch Relay, which is the transfer of the Olympic flame from Ancient Olympia, Greece – where the first Olympic Games were held thousands of years ago – to the stadium of the city hosting the current Olympic Games. We could see the flame arriving just in time for the Opening Ceremony.



Illustration 6: Vancouver during the Winter Olympics



Illustration 7: Olympic Village, 2010 Winter Olympics

Vancouver is an overwhelming city. There is so much to see. I will always remember the places which we visited.



Illustration 8: North Vancouver



Illustration 9: Vancouver Harbor

I think my favorite place in this city is Stanley Park, which is an urban park bordering downtown Vancouver. The park attracts a

lot of people, who come for its recreational facilities and its natural attributes. The forest gives the park a more natural character than most other urban parks. The best entertainment is the park is world famous Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Center. It is a major tourist attraction for Vancouver.



Illustration 10: Vancouver Aquarium

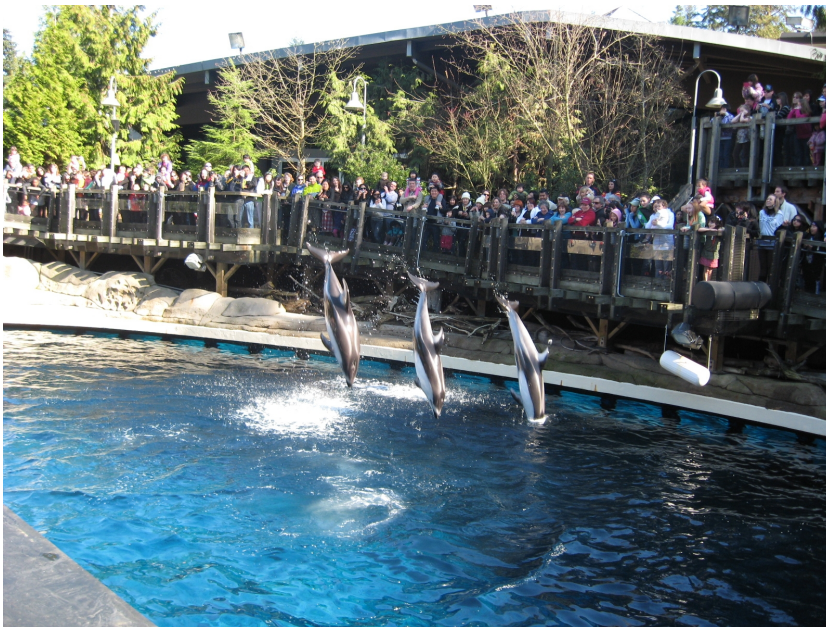


Illustration 11: Dolphin-Show at the Aquarium



Illustration 13: The famous Belugas

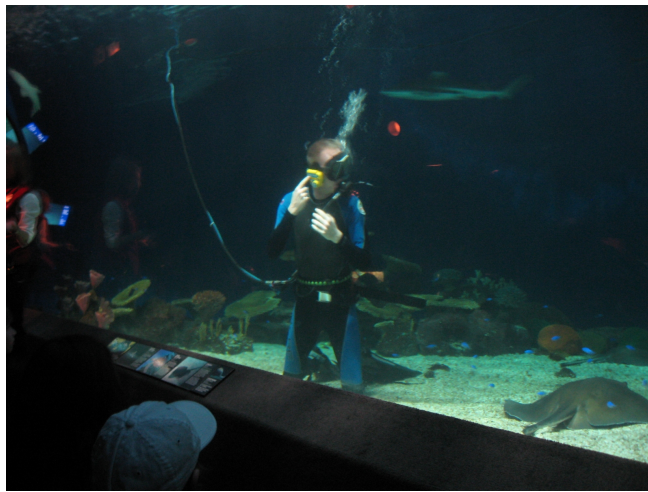


Illustration 12: Shark-Show

In the first weeks we met a lot of people and made many friends. If I think of Canada, the first thing that pops from in my head is the kindness of its citizens. Everyone was so eager to help us. This was very useful at first because it would have been much more difficult to get around in this city. There were a lot of occasions when these new friends accompanied us to new places and they very happy to give us opinion on what to buy or visit.

The most amazing thing is the city's cultural diversity. I

have been told that around one hundred different countries citizens live here. It is so interesting to meet

people from different places and share ideas. The result of this rich diversity is that there are a lot of restaurants with specific cuisine's. I have tried out Japanese, Vietnamese, Korean and local Hungarian. I have to say I am a huge fan of Asian food now.



Illustration 14: Eating sushi at a local restaurant

There are so many places to visit outside of Vancouver. I had the chance to visit the amazing Bowen island, which is about two kilometers west from the mainland. There is regular ferry service from Horseshoe Bay. This was my first trip

with a big ferry. We rented a nice cabana for the night.

We rented kayaks and went out kayaking in the bay. It was so fantastic to row in the water of the Pacific Ocean. We went up to the northern point of the island. We went along the coast which presented us with a unforgettable scenery: water smashing on the rocks, trees standing mighty in the face of the fast winds.



Illustration 15: Kayaking in the bay



Illustration 16: Ships in the harbor, Bowen Island

The RHA(Residence Hall Association) at campus organized a lot of fun activities and we took full advantage of these programs. I tried curling, which is typical Canadian sport, and ice-skating.

I felt so good when I met other Hungarians in this distant part of the world. Sometimes we were just talking Hungarian amongst ourselves, and complete strangers would come to us and salute in our

language. I realized that the world is not that big as I thought earlier. We were invited to the Carnival at the Hungarian House. I would never thought that I would be speaking to my fellow countrymen who live now in Canada.



Illustration 17: Ice-skating



Illustration 18: Dancing in the Hungarian House

Our coordinator at Simon Fraser University was Professor Shahram Payandeh, who was very friendly and gave us a warm welcome. During my stay, I attended two courses: Modern Control Systems and Social History of Canada. I believe this was very useful because we could learn about Canada's history and culture. The main part of this semester was Special Project Laboratories. In this lab, we were working on the development of hockey playing robots.

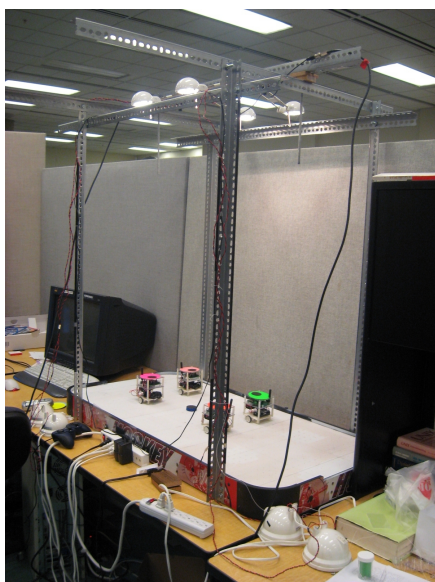


Illustration 19: The robots & the track

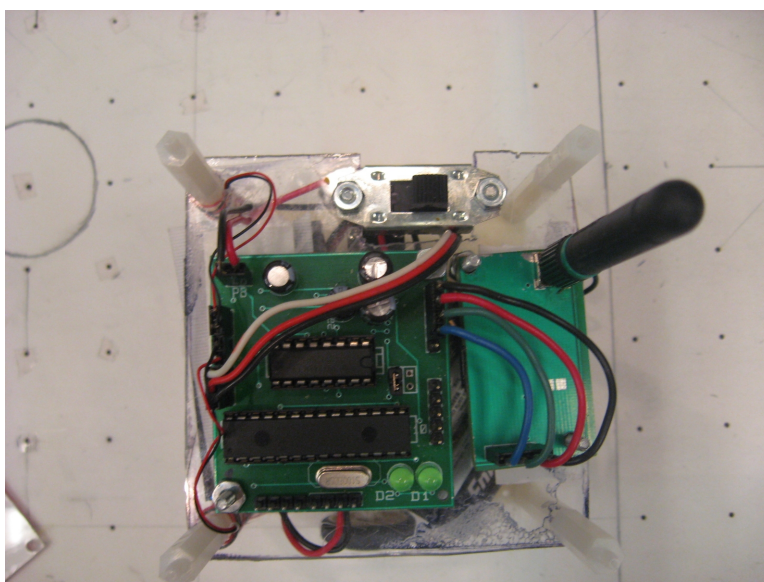


Illustration 20: One of the Hockey Robots

Inside the RobuCup project I was working on two modules: the first was the Archive module, the second was the Internet module. The purpose of the Archive module is to store the data about the robots, in both the Simulation, Internet and the Real Time game, and then retrieve these data, so the player or the developer can look at these numbers and help to make the other parts of the project better or just re-see the game. The user can see the data from each robot and parallel with these numbers a video as well. The objective of the Internet module is to realize the control and coordination of the robots with the help of the Internet. In the first version, the home team will be controlled by the Decision Module and the enemy team will be controlled over the Internet with the help of a keyboard. In a later version, both teams could be controlled by two different computers and the data will be sent over the Internet.

I loved working on this project, because we worked in a real international team. It was very useful because I learned a lot of new stuff and I could horn my teamwork skills.

I would like to a moment to thank professors Dr. Márton Lőrinc and Dr. Shahram Payandeh for giving and helping me in a great experience, which I will remember forever.

