В общем и целом поездка в Германию мне понравилась. Я получил много полезной информации, завел друзей по всему миру. Сейчас мы переписываемся посредством сети Internet.

Алексей Фоменко,
студент АЭФ ТПУ, гр. 9A52

I am a third year student of Tomsk polytechnical university. I am learning in the faculty of automatics and electric power industry, at the board of electrical systems and mains. When I was only the first-year student I began to learn German language at Russian-German Center at TPU. By the end of the second year, thanks to the senior lecturer of our faculty Boris Mikhailovich Valov, I have found out that there is such a city as Ilmenau, where at Technical university the international summer language courses on colloquial German language will be carried out. Since I have already learned German for two years and had a good passive vocabulary, hence I needed to increase my active one, and I decided to use this opportunity. Five months before the beginning of the courses I wrote a letter with the request for participation. After few days I have received the answer, but it was only beginning, the correspondence proceeded four months more, while we have settled all organizational matters. To leave from Russia, it is necessary to solve very many problems, for example, with the foreign passport. And only five months later, just before the departure, all documents were gathered. One more student, Andrey Shustov, and me - have started off. Here I would like to advise the one who is going to study abroad, to prepare all documents beforehand, otherwise in the last moment you can find yourself in a very awkward situation. We have reached Berlin by the Aeroflot planes. When we left the airport and got to the underground, I was surprised. I was really stunned with the German youth, variety of colors on their heads and clothes. The whole train was filled with youth, and all of them commended very loudly, shouting something and whistling. I thought, whether is it always such a situation here? But later we found out that annually this day is celebrated as the Holiday of Love. In Berlin there gathers the whole youth of Germany (and not only). So we have got, as they say, from the ship to fandango. The next day we arrived in Ilmenau. After Berlin it seemed that I have arrived to the settlement: there are neither high skyscrapers nor even so often-met in Russia nine-stored buildings here. Ilmenau, as many cities in Germany, consists of two-storied houses. This town has approximately 40000 inhabitants. It is situated in a very picturesque place among mountains, on the
height about 1000 meters above the sea level, the wood is similar to our Siberian taiga.
We were placed in students' hostels as the majority of participants of the courses. More than 100 participants represented 25 countries from all over the world. The training was held very interestingly and I had no time to bore. And it was really impossible to bore, because at every turn I've made new friends and girlfriends! Each day except Saturdays and Sundays, at 8 o'clock, the courses began. At 12:30 we had a dinner. We had our dinner in a students' restaurant, which is called Menza in German. It is in the middle of the campus, and the campus itself occupies a half of the town on the area. In general, Ilmenau is famous for its vast university, and therefore the majority of the population are the students. After dinner we made various excursions to cities of Germany or to suburbs of Ilmenau. During our trips I have got acquainted with more and more other foreigners. We communed, certainly, in German. In the evenings there were also organized various events, basically they were of entertaining character. In the evenings it was possible to go to the bar to play billiards, drink a cannikin of the real German beer and to do many other things. Everywhere it was necessary to speak in German, that caused fast increase of my active vocabulary. Once there was organized a holiday on the lakeside. Our tables were laid just near the shore, the various German dishes were prepared, and anyone who wished could go boating. An ensemble played for us the whole evening, till night. I remember the bicycle trip to the ancient German brewery. We rode about 40 kilometers. During this trip I could get acquainted with German villages and their everyday life.
Ilmenau is famous for its Porcelain factory, which we have visited too. Around the city there is a very beautiful wooden landscape. In vicinities there are many various tourist routes, where we often went for a walk. There are very famous tracks, where Goethe went for a walk. The Germans like to stroll on them in their free time. I was surprised by the perfect order: even in a wood everything is gathered in trim heaps and covered with something. All was organized so that we have got acquainted with each other as better as it was possible.
In Ilmenau technical university there are trained many foreigners, including the Russians. There are many various directions in engineering science there and everyone, who wishes to learn, can do it without any problems. Here they are always glad to new students, irrespective to their origin. In future I'm going to have a practice in this university and to defend my graduate work in German. If anybody wants to learn something about the university in details, he can find the information in Internet http://www.ilmenau.de/.
After finishing of the courses it is also possible to receive the certificate about a certain level of your knowledge in German language. On the whole, I liked the trip to Germany. I have received a lot of useful information, made many friends worldwide, and now I correspond with them by means of Internet.

Alexei Fomenko,
Student of АЭФ at TPU