

Murat Agca

Hometown: Columbia, MO

Co-Op Term: 5-Term Co-Op (2/5)

Company: Kimberly Clark

Location: Neenah, Wisconsin

AIChE position (2022-2023): Chapter Relations Committee Head



Kimberly-Clark



Why did you decide to join the co-op program?

I had been told by many different people growing up that college isn't as important as what type of experience you have working. That's the main reason I chose to join the co-op program. Taking semesters off of school to go work allows me to see what parts of the ChemE industry I am interested in working in and what parts I am not as well. It also doesn't hurt that I get to take extended breaks from schoolwork.

What work do you do? Tell me a little about your favorite part of the job...

I work for Kimberly-Clark, and so far most of my work has been in the realm of product development and material development. So the work I do is either in a lab gathering data on product/material performance, or in a prototyping room trying to make a better version of existing products. My favorite part of the job is probably how much freedom I get to direct the course of my projects, which I enjoy because it is very easy to incorporate my own ideas into my work.

What have been the best benefits you have seen so far as a part of the program? Any challenges?

The best benefits I have seen from the program, besides the job experience I get, is the connections I am able to make with a bunch of students from other colleges and industry professionals. The only challenge I feel I have encountered is just that to thrive in a co-op you need to be able to get out of your comfort zone and really push yourself to communicate with strangers, superiors, and co-workers so that you can leverage their experience and knowledge.

What is something you would like prospective co-ops to know about the program?

I'd like prospective students to know that co-ops are not just work. You get tons of free time to hang out with other co-ops and interns both in and out of work. It is a lot like having a full time job, so the time outside of work hours is yours to use as you please.

What is your favorite memory so far?

My favorite memory so far is going to see a Gorillaz concert in Atlanta last week with another co-op. It was super awesome and I definitely would never have gotten the chance to go to one if I wasn't in the area.