March 14, 2014

Dear ME 290 Student:

As many of you know, we in the Purdue School of Mechanical Engineering are working hard to leverage international developments to benefit our students. As students near the half-way point of their BSME program, we encourage each student to consider completing an “Engineering Term Abroad” (ETA) during at least one semester of their junior year, typically “semester 6.”

The importance of international experience is underscored by the travel awards just announced by Purdue President Mitch Daniels. For Spring 2015 programs, students are automatically awarded $3,000 for semester-long study-abroad programs. Returning students report back to us comments such as: “This experience changed my life.” 30% of our ME students are now graduating with international experience and we expect to reach 50% shortly.

Engineering Term Abroad—China, a “Class-Size” Program

We especially encourage students to consider an ME opportunity that is unique in the College of Engineering—a “class-size” ETA that allows a class-size group of Purdue ME students to prepare, travel, and live together, while completing a semester of ME coursework at a premier partner university, Shanghai Jiao Tong University in Shanghai, China.

With the “class size” design, group air fare is included in the program cost, a total that also includes housing, several textbooks, and a number of program events. The ETA-China program is open to every ME in “good standing” who is ready for approximately “semester six” coursework. The total cost, along with the usual Purdue tuition, is not more than the average cost of a West Lafayette semester with Purdue housing and meal plans.

As 2015 is the seventh year for the Purdue ME ETA China program, we can say with confidence that our participants are full of appreciation for their opportunity to see current developments in Asia first-hand. These students also return with a network of life-long ME friends who shared that experience with them. The application deadline for the Spring 2015 program is May 2, 2014. A $500 deposit is needed along with the application in order to complete enrollment.

Engineering Term Abroad—Additional Features

The ETA-SJTU program in China is designed to provide important compatibilities with the Purdue BSME program:

- Courses transfer as credits only—avoiding GPA distortions introduced by different grading systems
- Courses follow the Purdue ME Plan of Study—supporting progress toward the Purdue BSME
- Courses follow the Purdue academic calendar—preserving summer work/school schedules

In addition to the class-size ETA in China, we currently ETA destinations for individuals to Spain, Singapore, Turkey, India, and Australia. All ETA’s offer “credit transfer” for courses and include ME courses that count toward completion of the Purdue BSME Plan of Study. More details can be found on the website: https://engineering.purdue.edu/ME/Academics/Global.

If you have any questions or comments about these programs, please let us know. Study Abroad Liaison, Professor Jim Jones, jonesjd@purdue.edu or 765.494.5691; International Program Chair, Professor Chuck Krousgrill, krousgr@purdue.edu or 765.4945738; and Director of Global Studies, Dr. Dianne Atkinson, dla@purdue.edu or 765.494.1363, who travels to China each year with the ETA-China program, all welcome your questions.

Sincerely,

Anil Bajaj

William E. and Florence E. Perry Head
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