

Engineering International Programs Office Interview with Nawar Wali October 30, 2019

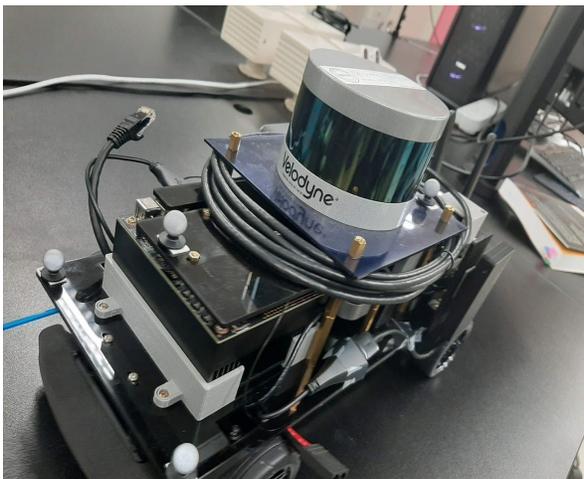
Daegu Gyeongbuk Institute of Science and Technology in Daegu, South Korea - Summer 2019

Daegu Gyeongbuk Institute of Science and Technology (DGIST) is a summer student research internship program in South Korea which is available for rising third year and fourth year engineering students. Participants in this program conduct research for 6-8 weeks in a supervised laboratory with fully dedicated faculty. 3rd Year Computer Engineering student, Nawar Wali was part of the student exchange program with DGIST. Here is her story.



Nawar Wali's Study Abroad Internship Experience

I arrived about 11 hrs after I had originally scheduled my arrival. The reason was that my flight got delayed 3 times. All in all, I arrived at 3 AM. I had missed all my train bookings and subsequent plans. I was panicking and was scared about being alone in a foreign country really late at night. Not to mention this would be my first time traveling alone. Thankfully the airport was always bustling with people and had reasonable accommodations.



The lab that I worked under dealt with Autonomous Vehicles and how to improve them in a number of ways. I definitely will never forget the experience of working with robots and it has helped spur my interest in the field. My lab was very welcoming and understanding. They knew my skillsets and knew what they wanted from me. I was immersed in an understanding and driven environment. The students that I worked with has made me strongly consider getting a Masters or a Doctorate in Computer Engineering. I know now that I want to spend my time doing research that helps society grow and prosper.

Along with my career/academic interests, I developed on a more personal level. It was in Korea where I finally was comfortable with being different. In a majorly homogenous country, I was very obviously different. I had to adjust from blending in with the crowd to being visible. I definitely gained the confidence in who I am because of it.

All of my memories I hold dear to me would not have been possible if I didn't choose to study abroad. In general, immersing yourself in a place where you might not be able to communicate with others is a place where you can find out who you truly are.

All in all, I loved my experience and I would do it again in a heartbeat!



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