

### **Could you introduce yourself please?**

My name is Dmitri Musinov and I come from Russia. I am studying International Information Management as part of the double degree course in Germany. If you are wondering what a double degree is, I will explain it very briefly. As part of a cooperation with the State University of Novgorod in Russia, the University of Hildesheim offers students on the International Information Management bachelor's degree the opportunity to acquire a German-Russian double degree.

At the end of their studies, students obtain a double degree in both the Bachelor's degree in Internationales Informationsmanagement at the University of Hildesheim and in "Linguistics: Translation and Translation Studies" at the Novgorod State University.

### **Is the double degree common in Russia?**

Double degrees in Russia are only common at universities that are located in really big cities, such as Moscow or Saint Petersburg. However, there are also exceptional cases like at my home university. It is in Novgorod. It is a small city only 200 km from Saint Petersburg. That is why it also offers double courses. A double degree is not only offered to linguistics students, but also to our teaching degree students.

### **How does the double degree work in the Covid19 period?**

It was difficult at the beginning, because of the pandemic, no visas were issued during this time. That is why I stayed in Russia for the first semester and attended my courses online. I was then allowed to come to Germany for the second semester. Of course, I took advantage of this opportunity because I wanted to get to know German culture and practice the German language with German people.

### **Are the courses you take in Hildesheim similar to the courses in your home country?**

Yes, many courses have similar content to my home university because they focus on German and English. What completely new for me at the University of Hildesheim is the content from the area of information management. At my home university, the focus is on the linguistics and translation studies.

Another difference is the university system. At my home university, you stay with the same classmates for the entire duration of your studies and you have a fixed curriculum right from the start. This means that you do not choose the courses yourself, but that they are already determined by the university. However, you have to show more active participation in Russia than in Germany. Russian teachers attach great importance to this. If you have been active in the course throughout the semester, you can be sure that you will get a good grade at the end.

**What are the pros and cons of this program for you?**

It has many advantages for me, but there are some disadvantages as well. First, I would like to talk about the benefits. It is definitely a good opportunity to gain experience abroad and to improve foreign language skills, in my case German and English. Now I have an idea about the German university system. This program gives me the benefits not only now, but also in the future. My diplomas are recognized within Europe and I now have a larger job market than without my double degree, because now I have a diploma for both the Linguistics: Translation and Translation Studies course from Russia and the International Information Management course from Germany.

**Do you like Hildesheim?**

I think Hildesheim is very beautiful. You will find a beautiful landscape and many sights that are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. However, I have also been to big cities in Germany, for example Munich. I would also like to live in a big city, because a big city has a lot of events and activities. I am also very used to living in a big city and having a faster pace of life.

**Did you make many friends here?**

Yes, I made a lot friends here. Not only friends from Germany but also international friends too. I think it is excellent because I can get to know several cultures at the same time. I met many of them in my student residence. We did a lot of things together and cooked international dinners.

**What are your hobbies?**

I love to run. I am also interested in foreign languages, literature and art.

**How would you describe your character?**

I am creative, spontaneous and warm-hearted.

**What plans do you have for the future?**

In the future, I would like to teach German and French at a high school in Russia.

*Thank you for the interview and good luck for the future.*