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Hi, I am Gaurang Shah from Mumbai, India. I graduated in December 2006 with M. Sc. degree in “Automation and Robotics” specializing in Process Automation. Staying and studying in Dortmund has been a unique experience for me which will stay with me for the rest of my life.

Dortmund is one of the rapidly growing cities gaining its popularity in the state of North-Rhine Westphalia (NRW). Apart from being famous for its beer, what’s unique about Dortmund is that it has a good mixture of international crowd which come from India, China, Pakistan, Mexico, Columbia, Vietnam, Thailand, Turkey, Iran, Syria, Sri Lanka, Spain, etc. There is a very good transportation network and there is Dortmund airport as well. Secondly, Dortmund is close to several famous destinations like Duesseldorf, Köln, Hannover, Aachen, Brussels and Paris. The University of Dortmund is quite big and it’s one of the few places in Germany which has a sky-train connecting the North campus with the South campus of the University. The University library is quite big and there are several PC-pools with internet access for students.

My M. Sc. course was interdisciplinary with interaction mainly between the dept. of Electrical Engg. & Information Technology, dept. of Biochemical & Chemical Engg., dept. of Mathematics and dept. of Mechanical Engg. There is a wide range of electives to be chosen from and a possibility to add more depending on the feedback from students. One can specialize in Robotics or Process Automation by taking an appropriate number of related courses/electives offered by the distinguished Professors. I did my final year Master thesis in the Chair of Process Control Laboratory headed by Prof. Engell. The whole academic faculty and the staff of this Chair have been very supportive and encouraging. I must admit that working for this Chair is highly demanding in terms of quality and the amount of work. But this also has the effect, for good, that it tries to bring out the best in you. You tend to become mature not only technically but also socially. This also is true from my personal experience with my 2<sup>nd</sup> thesis supervisors and mentors Marten Völker, Christian Sonntag and Ernesto-Elias Nieland. The Chair is a member of European project on Hybrid Control, HYCON, and so one has exposure to several events within HYCON. Regular get-together for Monday breakfasts, Christmas trips, Summer trips and several other events make this Chair a good place to work.

I wish you all the best in your future endeavours and look forward to seeing some of you working for this Chair.

Gaurang A. Shah  
Research Assistant @ Process Control Laboratory  
University of Dortmund.