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Since the first time I heard about how many opportunities are available for exchange students including the summer practices, I couldn't wait to get involved in such an adventure. Fortunately, after a successful scholarship me and one fellow student flew to the great city of Saint Petersburg – or North's Venice, as it is called sometimes. All in all, it was super!

We considered ourselves very lucky, firstly because of our contact person, Polina Sheshneva. She was a kind and very helpful company to us. She showed us several famous and beautiful places in the city center, not to mention the seashore or the suburbs of Peterhof, where we spent almost a whole day. We could reach her almost every day, so we spent around half of our afternoons together. On the first day, we met Timur, too. He was the older, experienced CP – he drove us from the airport to the dormitory, helped us in changing money and buying the most important things. Both of them speak English very well, so we had no difficulties in communication.



Secondly, we couldn't have imagined any better place than the Department of Neurology, 99 percently due to our supervisors – Dr. Inga Victorovna and Dr. Ivan Mihailovich. During the two weeks when we were there, they were our “foreign family”. They were not only unbelievably kind from the beginning, but taught us conscientiously. Inga Victorovna organized many cultural programs for us as well. Breath-taking choir concerts in Saint Isaac's Cathedral and the Church of the Savior on Blood, a boat trip on the Neva, a classical and a modern ballet in both Mariinsky Theatres. All of them for free, in two weeks. We were astonished every day thanks to her hospitality. To continue, Ivan was responsible for more surprises. He took us to a natural lake near the city for a whole day picnic on the first weekend, for example. And he took his whole family, too. We made a fire, cooked “plof”, swam in the cold lake, played with the children.. It was far beyond our expectations. :)



During the second two weeks we had the chance to be part of the Department of Family Medicine. Here we met some friendly doctors with different specialties. We spent our time mainly with Professor Dr. Elena Frolova – we examined patients, analyzed ECGs or discussed her previous interesting cases. With the other doctors (and students) we practiced our internal medical skills.

To summarize I am very grateful for the opportunity and I would also thank for the time and kindness of all our supervisors and contact persons. I will absolutely recommend Saint Petersburg for the third year students. Hopefully, we may meet again. :)

Yours sincerely, Gergely Csaba

