



DO NOT BE AFRAID to do things NO ONE has done before

My name is Alina Israfilova. I am from Russia. In 2018 I started my PhD research in the Institute of Structural Analysis, Faculty of Civil Engineering. My Program is bi-national. Thus, I am doing my research simultaneously in University of Tyumen, Russia (it is in Siberia!) and TU Dresden.

There is always a way!

I wanted to study in both universities while there was no connection established between them. I checked the website of TU Dresden and found a template of an agreement for doctoral studies under the double supervision. It was exactly what I was searching for.



Now I have two scientific supervisors and I spend my winter semesters in Dresden and my summer semesters in Tyumen. My final defense will take place only once and will be held in TU Dresden in presence of my Russian Professor.

We have different ways but we LEARN FROM EACH OTHER

I know NO ONE who did it before in my universities. My double studies became a basis for an international contact. I helped several students in Russian and Germany to prepare and seal such agreements.

Yes, there are still problems to solve:

- I can not have a working position in either of institutions since... yep, no one needs an employee who is never there when needed → I still can apply for scholarships!
- I can not have a proper renting contract in either country since I am moving every 6 months and I have to start and cancel my health insurance → A lot of students go for semesters abroad and they sub rent their flats and rooms. Insurance companies only need my plane-tickets for starting/canceling the membership
- It is hard to explain the concept of my studies to the governmental institutions in Germany – the process of visa-extension is more complicated → Better to have a good scholarship not to have problems
- I faced problems with re-registration as a student in TU Dresden: I did not expect that even though the management of TU Dresden knows about my studies after not paying the semester fee my ZIH-account was canceled. → I was told it is better to take a semester abroad officially. Thus, I can only pay a small registration fee to keep my student privileges