Press release

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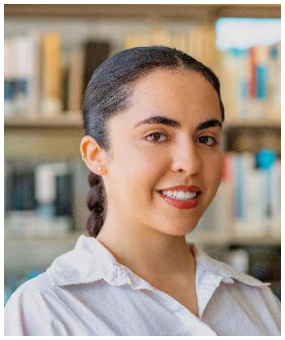
EFCE presents winners of the 2023 EFCE Student Mobility Award

Three outstanding young (bio)chemical engineers have been selected by an international jury to receive EFCE's prestigious **Student Mobility Award 2023**.
Presented biennially by the European Federation of Chemical Engineering (EFCE), these awards honour European chemical engineering students who have gained cross-cultural experiences by studying outside their home country for one semester or more.

The award was presented in Berlin, Germany, on 18 September 2023 during the Awards Session following the Opening of the 14th European Congress of Chemical Engineering & 7th European Congress of Applied Biotechnology - ECCE14 & ECAB7.

Alexandra Antunes – 1st prize



This year's first prize of €2,000 was awarded to Alexandra Antunes who recently completed her Master's thesis at the King Abdullah University of Science and Techology (KAUST), Saudia Arabia, as part of her studies in chemical engineering with specialisation in biotechnology at the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto, Portugal. During her studies she also successfully completed courses of study at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), and an Entrepreneurial Skills course at Lund University in Sweden.
She said: "My journey has been filled with experiences that have shaped me into the person I am today."
In her essay Ms. Antunes stated about her stay at Lund University: "The highlight of this experience was winning the final in-person hackathon. My group developed a business idea to solve a global health issue. Our proposal was for a medical helmet that detects pain using brain signals, which could be used to help ease diagnostics and treatments. I got to hone my problem-solving skills and work collaboratively with other people from diverse backgrounds towards a common goal while enjoying amazing Swedish infrastructures and teaching methods."
About her stay in Hong Kong, she wrote: "For me, living in a country with such a different culture like Hong Kong was life changing. I wish to everyone to be able to experience different worlds in their lifetime. Immersing yourself in new cultures is for me the best thing you can do to shape the person you will be in the future."

Ilaria Ceteroni – 2nd prize

The second prize (€1,500) was awarded to Ilaria Ceteroni who currently is a PhD student in Sustainable Chemistry at the Polytechnic University of Valencia, Spain, working on "*Engineering catalyst interoperability in next-generation tandem reactions for intensified chemical processes*". She completed her Bachelor and an international Master's degree in Chemical and Biochemical Engineering at the University of Bologna, Italy. During her Bachelor studies, she attended courses of Chemical and Industrial Engineering at the University of Extremadura in Badajoz, Spain. As part of her Master thesis project, she worked as a research assistance at the Institute for Materials and Processes (IMP), University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom.

Commenting on her first stay abroad, she said: "This experience was personally and academically formative: I could face different perspectives and teaching methods in addition to learning and improving my Spanish knowledge."

In her essay she also stated: "Since the beginning of my academic career, I had the clear idea to want a varied international experience taking advantage of opportunities for moving among different European universities. The reason is that I think mobility is a great opportunity for personal and professional growth due to the need of facing different environments, ways of thinking and doing things, gaining a lot of flexibility and adaptability skills."

Kévin Péridon – 3rd prize

The third prize (€1,000) was awarded to Kévin Péridon, who obtained the Diploma "Ingénieur des Industries Chimiques" from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Industries Chimiques (ENSIC), University of Lorraine, Nancy, France, with specialisation in "Process, Energy, Environment". During his studies he completed courses at the Karlsruhe Institute for Technology (KIT), Karlsruhe, Germany. The jury emphasized his exemplary level of integration, e.g. through his involvement in the Franco-German friendship activities between the cities of Nancy and Karlsruhe and his work as an intern for the City of Karlsruhe.

Commenting on his experiences studying abroad, he said: "In contrast to France, the studies in Germany are far more theorical and there is more interaction between students and professors. Likewise, I learned other notions and approaches in the fields that I had chosen. In fact, the references are not the same than my courses in France. I learned other solving methods and I find that it provided great additional information to my knowledge and my skills."

He said: "With this experience in Karlsruhe, I not only improved my knowledge in Chemical Engineering and my German, but I also discovered a lot about the life in Germany in general, and learned not only about their culture, but also about my own – in short, all the differences and similarities that we share and make us unique as European neighbours."

The 2023 Student Mobility Award is generously sponsored by BASF SE.

Ends

Related links

EFCE media centre (https://www.efce.info/News)

EFCE Student Mobility Award (https://www.efce.info/Student_Mobility_Award)

14th European Congress of Chemical Engineering and 7th European Congress of Applied Biotechnology - ECCE14 & ECAB7) (https://ecce-ecab2023.eu)

Photograph caption (L-R): 2nd prize winner, Ilaria Ceteroni; 1st prize winner, Alexandra Antunes; Dr. Hermann J. Feise, BASF SE (Chair of the EFCE Working Party on Education); Third prize winner Kévin Péridon was unable to attend.

Notes to media

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About chemical engineers

Chemical, biochemical and process engineering is the application of science, maths and economics to the process of turning raw materials into everyday products. Professional chemical engineers design, construct and manage process operations all over the world. Oil and gas, pharmaceuticals, food and drink, synthetic fibres and clean drinking water are just some of the products where chemical engineering plays a central role.

About EFCE

Founded in 1953, The European Federation of Chemical Engineering (EFCE) is a non-profit-making association, whose object is to promote co-operation in Europe between non-profit-making professional scientific and technical societies in 30 countries for the general advancement of chemical engineering and as a means of furthering the development of chemical engineering. See www.efce.org