

Press release

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Winners of the EFCE Student Mobility Awards selected

The 2017 Student Mobility Awards were presented to three outstanding young chemical engineers at the 10th World Congress of Chemical Engineering (WCCE 10) to recognise international mobility during their academic studies.

Paulina Murrath – 1st prize

This year's first prize of €2,000 was awarded to Paulina Murrath who is



currently working as a Food Safety Manager for products from Central and Northern Europe at Mercadona, Spain's market leader in the supermarket segment.

Paulina Murrath obtained her Bachelor and Master's degree in chemical engineering from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium. The Master studies included a 1-year Erasmus exchange to Polytechnic University of Madrid, Spain. During her studies she completed a three month internship at the University of Vicosa in Brazil and a two month Summer School on Asian Business at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She conducted the Master's research project at Wageningen University and Research Centre, The Netherlands.

Commenting on her experiences studying abroad, Ms. Murrath said: "Having studied in five different universities across three continents, I not only learned how to approach engineering subjects but also how to communicate and network fluently in nine languages with people from all over the world."

She added: "Recently, at the two-day visit to BASF in Antwerp, I met eight engineers and asked each of them the same question: 'What is the biggest challenge that you face on a daily basis?' All but one answered that the challenge lies in being able to communicate effectively. This made me realize that without the Erasmus programme and international cooperation between universities, I would have never had the chance to improve such skills, which are invaluable for an international chemistry between people, something of great urgency in this very globalized world today."

Jorge Corral Acero – 2nd prize

The second prize (€1,500) was awarded to Jorge Corral Acero. He completed his Bachelor and Master's degree in chemical engineering at the University of Valladolid, Spain with a one-year Erasmus placement at Imperial College London, United Kingdom. Following his studies he conducted postgraduate research stays at the Berkeley University of California and the Harvard Medical School, USA.

He said: "Studying abroad not only brings you fresh academic knowledge, but it also exposes you to different cultures, enabling the possibility of interaction so that other ways of thinking can be acquired and new personal relationships developed. Therefore, there is a dual personal-professional enrichment which, indeed, results in growth as an individual."

Frederik Schulze Spüntrup – 3rd prize

Third prize (€1,000) was awarded to Frederik Schulze Spüntrup who is currently a PhD student at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway. Schulze Spüntrup completed her Master's degree in Advanced Chemical Engineering with Process Systems Engineering from Imperial College London, United Kingdom, and the Master's research project at the University of Tokyo, Japan, after completing the Bachelor degree in Chemical Engineering at Hochschule Niederrhein-University of Applied Sciences, Krefeld, Germany.

In his essay he stated: "The experience of living in different countries changed my life. I was an independent person before, but moving to new horizons served as a catalysts for increased maturity and had lasting impact on my world view. I feel equipped to think and work on a global basis. It made me capable to take the initiatives to relocate, adapt to new environment, and learn from new resources."

Presented biannually by the European Federation of Chemical Engineering (EFCE), these awards honour the best European chemical engineering students who have sought professional development and gained cross-cultural experiences by studying outside their home country for one semester or more.

The 2017 Student Mobility Award is generously sponsored by BASF SE.



WCCE10 is held jointly with the 11th European Congress of Chemical Engineering (ECCE11) and the 4th European Congress of Applied Biotechnology (ECAB4) in Barcelona, Spain, from 1 to 5 October 2017.

Ends

Related links

EFCE media centre (<http://www.efce.info/Media+Centre.html>)

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

10th World Congress of Chemical Engineering (<http://www.wcce10.org>)

Photograph caption (L-R): 2nd prize winner, Jorge Corral Acero; Dr. Hermann J. Feise, BASF SE; 1st prize winner, Paulina Murrath; Professor Jean-Marc Le Lann, EFCE Scientific Vice-President; and 3rd prize winner, Frederik Schulze Spüntrup. (photography by Alicia Garcia)

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