

Press release

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EFCE selects winners of Student Mobility Awards

An unprecedented five winners will each receive a coveted Student Mobility Award from the European Federation of Chemical Engineering (EFCE), to be presented at the 9th European Congress of Chemical Engineering in The Hague next month.

The biennial awards recognise the value of international mobility during the early years of higher academic study. They are awarded to those students who – through the combination of academic and cross-cultural experiences – demonstrate ambition, appreciation of international projects in chemical engineering and contribution to ongoing research.

Sandra Temmel – 1st Prize (€2000)

Having completed her undergraduate studies in chemical and bioengineering at Friedrich-Alexander-University, Erlangen, Germany, Temmel's first overseas study experience took her to Nanjing, PRC, where she pursued her interest in Chinese language and culture.

On returning to Erlangen, she completed her Bachelor's Degree at the Chair for interfacial and solid process engineering, and then undertook a scholarship exchange semester at Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon in Monterrey, Mexico.

The following year (2011-2012) saw the start of a year-long study at Master's level at CSIRO in Melbourne, Australia, culminating in her thesis entitled *Enhanced separation of cream in a megasonic cubic reactor*. Interspersed with her academic study, Temmel has accumulated rich professional experiences such as at the BayZoltán Foundation for Applied Research at Miskolc, Hungary, where she worked on liposome research.

She is currently continuing her research at the Paul-Scherrer-Institut in Zürich, with doctoral studies into fuel cells.

Commenting on her experiences, Temmel recognises the call for above-average students *"the sort of future leaders who combine high academic achievements with elaborated soft skills and who, in addition, are fluent in [several] languages"*. She appealed to universities to encourage their students to study abroad which, she suggests, develops not only the mind, but also organisational talent, willpower and stamina.

This rich and diverse portfolio of academia, research and thirst for multi-cultural experience impressed the evaluation panel, resulting in a unanimous decision to award Temmel the first prize.

Other prizewinners are:

Alessandra Pennati – 2nd Prize (€1500)

Close to completing a Master's degree at the Politecnico di Milano in her native Italy, Pennati spent two years 2011-2012 at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU). There she specialised in modelling of chemical processes and process design, achieving her first Master's degree as an 'Elite Track' student. Her thesis on *Synthesis of Water Networks* developed a unique methodology applied as a case study to the treatment of oil refinery wastewater. Pennati comments: *"I had the opportunity to get the best out of two different academic environments – flexibility and innovation on the Danish side and solid preparation and independence on the Italian side."*

Reyes Aibar Abad – 2nd Prize (€1500)

An undergraduate of chemical engineering at the University of Zaragoza, Spain, Aibar Abad also benefited from the Erasmus programme, spending one year of her degree as a student at Tampere University of Technology, Finland which she states *"[is] one of the most opposite countries compared to Spain in the language, climate, way of teaching and learning."* She claimed it an ideal place to complete her chemical engineering studies, she states, as it offered opportunity for deeper study into paper production which is one of Finland's most enduring and renowned industries.

Marta Bilbao – 3rd Prize (€1000)

Bilbao embarked on her first degree at University of Zaragoza (School of Engineering and Architecture), before completing her studies – thanks to the Erasmus exchange programme – at Imperial College, London. The following year, she wrote a Master thesis in chemical engineering having gained an internship at the Brussels headquarters of Procter & Gamble, Belgium. Asked about her experiences she wrote: *"It was not only the fact of learning about different cultures, behaviors or customs, but also the opportunity of combining the best of different backgrounds in order to build a common project."*

Emmanouil Papadakis – 3rd Prize (€1000)

A Greek national, Papadakis obtained his Diploma in Engineering from the University of Patras (Greece), before continuing his studies at Denmark Technical University where he obtained a Master's in Chemical and Biochemical Engineering. Prior study of rheology of complex fluids (polymers) came to the fore when he was assigned to a project to test the rheology behavior of dairy sauces for leading food manufacturer, Arla Group. This was a particularly exciting opportunity, he explains, *"as it took place at DTU with the cooperation of the National Food Technology Department and the Danish Polymer Centre."*

Editor's Notes

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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. 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

About Student Mobility Awards

Launched in 2005, Student Mobility Awards were introduced to promote internationalisation of European chemical engineering students.

Three prizes are presented every two years to the best European students of chemical engineering who have studied successfully at least one semester in first or second cycle study programmes in chemical engineering in each of two different countries.