

Engineering something new



■ RAMANDEEP KAUR | NT KURIOCIETY

Suparno Pal, who will soon be entering the fourth year of his undergraduate degree in electrical and electronics engineering at BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus has been awarded the DAAD WISE Scholarship 2018. As part of this scholarship, Suparno is working with the Neuroelectronics Group at the Technical University of Munich, Germany. The group focuses on printing technologies for life science and point of care applications, and his work lies within this theme.

Pal began his 12 week internship in May, 2018. "I have enjoyed every single day of my internship so far because I learn something new every day. We have an interdisciplinary, international, group, with members from over 10 countries and we leverage this diversity, not only to help each other with our research problems, but to build the best of friendships," says Suparno.

The DAAD Wise is a scholarship programme for undergraduate students in India, pursuing degrees in science and engineering. If selected, it supports the student to work on a summer research internship at a university or a research institute in Germany. Pal applied for the scholarship during his fifth semester and was among the 150 or so students, from select Indian institutes, who was awarded the scholarship this year. "The main benefit of this scholarship is that it allows the student to experience working on a research problem at some of the best universities in Germany, so early in his/her career. It also opens up doors for future collaboration or graduate study at a university in Germany," explains Pal.

He says that he secured the scholarship after quite a bit of work which involved long rounds of interviews with a prospective mentor, writing research proposals, statement of purposes and most importantly, maintaining a near perfect academic record and having quality past research experience. "This was a scholarship I had heard about during my fourth semester and am happy that I could convert it," says Pal.

Besides this, he was also awarded the prestigious Indian Academy of Sciences - Summer Research Fellowship this year which he had to decline to accept the DAAD offer.

Currently the topper of his department and a recipient of BITS Pilani Institute Merit Scholarship for his academic standing, Pal enjoys watching horror movies with friends, back in his institute. He also like taking long walks and treks.

His plan after completing his undergraduate degree is to pursue graduate studies in electrical engineering with focus on Bioelectronics and Medical Device Development.