

Valladolid - Motivation letter for this activity

Let's start with a Joke:

Do you know how much a polar bear weighs? -Enough to break the ice.

Now the ice between us is broken and I can introduce myself.

First of all, I am absolutely in love with Spain!

I have already visited Madrid, Toledo, Valencia, Fuerteventura, Mallorca and Barcelona. My current favourite is Barcelona, but I think a stay at Valladolid could change this ;)

I am a 21 year old, Spain addicted student of the Vienna University of Technology. I am studying Technical Mathematics since October 2015 and in my free time I like meeting my friends, going to the cinema, reading books, watching series or playing with my dogs. I am able to get in touch with people easily and finding new friends is a favourite thing of mine. I am sure a lot of friends will be made during the course and I hope they will endure a long time.

Besides my affection to numbers, maths and science I love travelling around the world and explore the world. As I have mentioned before I especially go for Spanish cities. The Spanish culture, history, architecture and food (mhmmm tapas and paella) are very fascinating to me. I am really charmed by the Spanish mentality and sunny disposition and visiting Spain as often as possible is a aim of mine.

In my opinion you only get to know a country or a city if you walk through narrow streets apart from the touristic hot spots and get in touch with locals. Because of these reasons, this course is absolutely perfect for me and I would love to be part of this great idea!

Producing energy efficiently and using the right way is a big issue nowadays. If fossil fuels end there is no other possibility as using renewable energy and I consider myself as responsible for the next generation.

So I would like to take part in the program in order to learn interesting things about energy.

However, this course is not only about learning new scientific facts and gain knowledge, but about making new friends, having fun and a great time.

I have to be part of this BEST course, because you will never get bored with me, my smile is catching and I never run out of jokes.

Where there's fun, there's me and I can't wait to walk together through the city and explore Valladolid while thinking about a cow's fart.

So if you are convinced that I am the right person for the course, my work is done and I am looking forward meeting you!

Finally another joke:

Why can you never trust atoms?

For the answer just invite me to Valladolid ;)

Activity specific questions

Do we only produce the energy that we need? Could we live only with the energy produced by renewable sources?

According to my opinion we waste too much energy. Especially the western world uses so much energy for permanent light, driving around by car all the time and careless throughout the day.

It is not necessary that a building is lit up all night or driving by car is more ordinary than walking or using public transportation.

Personally I try to restrain my amount of wasted energy. I walk a lot or take the metro, I deactivate electronic devices instead of let them at standby if I stop using them and buying eco-friendly products is a big issue for me.

To my mind the amount of available energy on the world is very unfair and unbalanced. If everyone in Europe and North America reduces his energy consumption, poor countries would have the possibility to grow and get richer. It would only be fair if we help them getting modern and industrialized.

Like I have explained in the next question (I have answered the question in another order, I am a rebel) there are many ways of obtaining renewable energy and most of them are still not fully developed. There is a lot of capacity in wind, solar and water energy and politicians should not follow the instructions of the energy lobby instead of enlarging and boosting renewable energy. This form of energy must be our future because oil and coal will be gone in a few years. If we are not able to change our way of producing and wasting energy our children will have a huge energy problem! It is our duty to gain new, better and eco-friendly ways of obtaining energy.

Which new way of obtaining energy do you think is still not being exploited enough?

In my mind there are many ways of obtaining clean, green and harmless energy.

Such as Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) for example. This works with generating solar power by using mirrors or lenses to concentrate a large area of sunlight. In very hot areas such as the Sahara desert there is so much wasted energy. In only one hour the amount of energy hitting the ground is as high as the used energy of all people in the world during one year.

CSP is not as complicated and dangerous as nuclear technologies and much more cheaper. Furthermore it is CO₂ neutral and renewable energy in opposition to energy produced by oil and fossil fuels.

Moreover deserts are not used by anyone and hardly populated. Neither people have to move away from their neither homes nor animals as it appears by water energy produced by huge reservoir dams.

After the oil crisis in the 1970's CSP stations were built in California and Nevada and they are still used. However, the price of oil dropped and they were forgotten by the public.

Another advantage of CSP is the possibility of encouraging the local people and companies in these poor countries and increase the amount of jobs there.

Of course, there are a lot of more ways producing green energy, such as photovoltaic plants, tidal power station or wind energy, but I wanted to outline the advantages of this unknown form of obtaining energy.

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You are visiting a nuclear station and you suddenly see a green phosphorescent liquid leaking from the reactor. You look inside your bag and the only things you have are a “Los Chichos” ’s cassette tape, a sangria jug, a penguin from Madagascar, a pack of chewing gum and a pair of underwear that are not yours and you don’t know why they are there. What would you do?

Most of the time I would think about the underwear and the reason why I carry them.

Then I would ask the penguin from Madagascar if he would fix the damage for a pack of chewing gum. Because the penguin is a very clever and smart guy and furthermore he is addicted to chewing gum he will solve the problem easily. During its work I would drink some of the sangria, listen to the cassette and carry on wondering about the underwear. After this important siesta the penguin would have repaired the nuclear station, everybody would be saved and I would be celebrated for my smart and heroic exploit.

By the way, the underwear has to be one from an awesome party a few days ago where I met the penguin. Maybe it is his. Do you want to hear the story about the party? You know what to do!