

Students on NetFam program Martynas Kazlauskas, Daiva Karpavičiūtė, Silvestras Dikšius

Place of Study: Russian state Hydrometeorological University, Russia

Period of Study: Feb-Jun 2005

Home University: Vilnius University, dept. of Hydrology and Meteorology

The basic plan of studies was confirmed by department of Meteorology at RSHU, dept. of Hydrology and Meteorology and NetFam. The program took place at Russian state Hydrometeorological University, St. Petersburg, beginning on January ending June 2005.

The main courses were dynamic meteorology, mathematical physics, mechanics of fluid and gases and hydrodynamical forecasting, both lectures and practice. The program was combined in this way to help us attend as many NWP related lectures as possible during the short period of training. The time schedule was quite intensive, especially concerning the fact that lectures were taking place on Saturdays as well. One thing that we could recommend for the future training programs at RSHU about the time schedule is to make sure that study programs are not double crossing one another at the same time. Such issues may still appear at the very last moment and have slightly unpleasant results. The lecture course of hydrodynamic forecasting left some doubts about the quality of material presented during it, and was quite different from what we have expected at the beginning.

The university staff, in general, has been very helpful. We received quite a lot of useful information and help from the dept. of International students at RSHU, especially at the beginning of our studies. The level of lectures was good enough. The practical part of the course had some unexpected limitations, especially concerning the shortage of PC's, but quite satisfying. The kind assistance of the staff at the dept. of Meteorology at RSHU helped us to achieve good results.

In addition to lectures and practice/laboration, each of us was given individual work in dept. of Meteorology and forecasting at RSHU. We were given a possibility to choose the most suitable topic for each of us.

First topic was „Interpolation of vertical soundings data on Hirlam vertical levels“ (together with E. Atlaskin, PhD student at Russian state Hydrometeorological University). The main objective of the work - creating tools that would be used for further data analysis for further studies upon the HIRLAM Nordic temperature problem. Program tools were created mainly using FORTRAN and GrADS. Basically, the work was more or less technical. Second (together with K. Kourzeneva, assistant professor at RSHU) was based on the Flake model (integrated in RCA climate model). Various albedo calculation techniques were tested for determining the effect of various Flake albedo evaluation techniques on the surface temperature and radiation budget of (large) lakes. Both works were awarded at the Student Research Conference at RSHU, second and third place, respectively. Third topic was related with 3D HIRLAM radiation scheme (together with N. Senkova, PhD at RSHU). The main interest of this research was calculating the dependence of the Sky view factor (SVF) on height. Several experiments with different SVF values were tested on 3D HIRLAM radiation scheme.

The student hostel conditions were quite satisfying, though there have been many problems, especially during winter and early spring time. The hostel was situated a bit away from the university, although it was easy to reach it by public transport. Other problems worth mentioning were the specific immigration regime and lots of bureaucracy procedures before and after leaving university. This is the thing which should be taken in mind by anyone going to study in Russia.

In general, the lecture course has fulfilled our expectations. It also helped in filling in some gaps of our study program at Vilnius University and made a positive effect in determining of our future fields of study back in Lithuania.