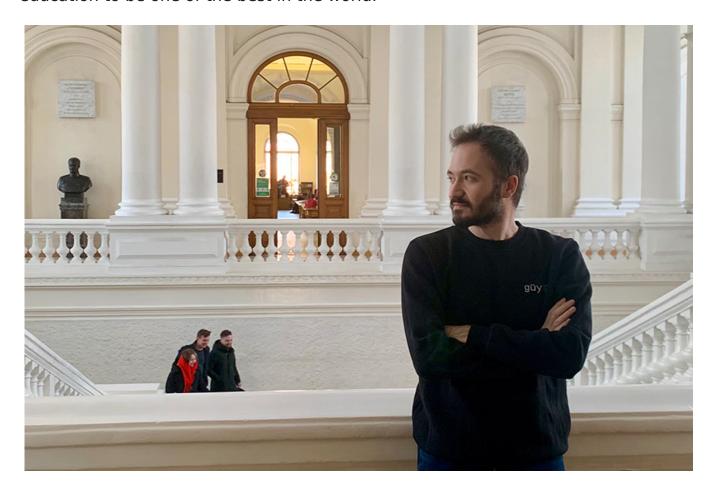
<u>Turkish master's degree student Furkan Ceylan: "SPbPU is dynamism and modernity"</u>

Furkan Ceylan, a master's degree student from Turkey, chose the international Civil Engineering program at Polytechnic University. In an interview with our website, he told us what he learned at Polytechnic, what successes he managed to achieve during his studies and why Furkan considers Russian engineering education to be one of the best in the world.



- Furkan, how did your studies in Russia begin?

— I earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in Turkey. At first I thought that life as a foreigner in Russia would be difficult, but the desire to study new countries and cultures overcame my fears. I started with the foundation program and have never regretted it — it is a great opportunity for international students. A year ago I hardly knew Russian, only the alphabet, but now I can speak it confidently. The Russian language is very different grammatically from the structures I am used to, so learning it was not easy, but very exciting. Our teacher skillfully explained the material.

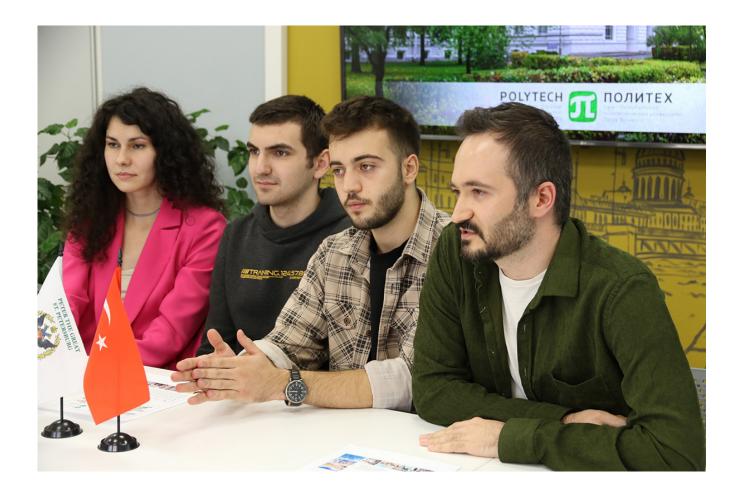
— Why did you choose Russia for your studies?

— I immediately realized that studying in Russia would be the most suitable for my profession, as many large companies, both Russian and Turkish, are located here. I didn't even consider other countries, I just chose between Moscow and St. Petersburg. The architecture of St. Petersburg made a huge impression on me. And I decided to stay in this city. Every street here is like a museum! I love walking, and my favorite place is New Holland



— What attracted you to Polytechnic University?

— First of all, it was the high quality of education in my specialty. Polytechnic University has an excellent reputation in the world, and I learned that many outstanding scientists are its graduates. It is interesting for me to study in the same classrooms as these great people. In addition, I have the opportunity to study on a budget. Another reason is that the main features of studying here, in my opinion, are dynamism and modernity. Technology is developing very quickly, and Polytechnic University adapts to these changes instantly.



- What are your favorite courses?

— Within my specialty, I am particularly interested in structural mechanics. I started my studies in Russian and plan to continue in English. This course is taught by a wonderful professor who has an excellent command of both languages, which makes the classes very comfortable for our international group.

- What is the teachers' attitude towards international students?

— The teachers treat us very well, always with understanding. For example, when I had to choose a thesis supervisor, I didn't know any of the teachers. I found their contacts and wrote to them — everyone replied. After communication, I chose a supervisor. This is Marina Romanovich, Candidate of Engineering and Associate Professor of the Higher School of Hydraulic Power Engineering Construction.



— How are things going with socializing? Have you made new friends at Polytechnic University?

— Communication within the student community is very strong. We actively support each other, and the atmosphere here is friendly — everyone is eager to socialize. We practice languages together. I speak to the guys in Russian, and they answer me in English. I also have great relationships with students from different countries. I try to choose new project groups every time to get to know different cultures better. There are many student communities at Polytechnic that organize extracurricular activities, and we enjoy taking part in them.



- How difficult was it to adapt to the new lifestyle?

— For the first three months I was actively learning to understand how to adapt to the new environment and communicate with Russians. It was not easy because of the language and cultural differences, especially as I had not traveled abroad before. However, it became easier over time. The only thing I have a hard time getting used to is the weather. The lack of sunny days is unusual for me; I miss the warmth a bit. But the white nights in St. Petersburg are simply magical! During this period, I feel a burst of energy.

- Have you been anywhere else in Russia?

— Yes, during my studies at Polytechnic University I visited several other Russian cities. But the trip to Karelia impressed me the most. The nature there is amazing! There are no such forests and landscapes in Turkey.



- What are your plans for the future?

— After I finish my Master's degree, I plan to learn Russian better, as I want to stay living in Russia. Perhaps, at first I will work for a Turkish or Russian company, but in the future I dream of opening my own construction firm. I am sure that the knowledge acquired at Polytechnic will help me realize this dream and will be in demand in the market. Polytechnic University is a great opportunity for a foreign student.

— What advice would you give to other international students who want to study at Polytechnic University?

— I would advise them not to be afraid and to approach new acquaintances openly. Studying in another country is a great experience! It is also important to be patient in learning the language. Russian may seem difficult, but it's worth it. And don't forget to explore the culture and traditions — this will make your studies more enriching and interesting!

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