

Summer School 2017: Feedback-Report

Pascal Jennewein

The Summer School 2017 in Hasselt (Belgium) happened at the Campus Diepenbeek of the UHasselt. At the start of this period everyone gathered in a lecture room where we first met every other participant of the summer school. It was quite a mix of every subject in sciences and therefore we had already pretty nice discussions about the different research topics and professions of each other which led to getting more familiar with the participants.

Prof. Deferme introduced us in the complete planning of the Summer School where we have lectures and presentations of different research fields from every presenting member of UHasselt and IMO/IMOMEC. After those presentations the lunch break and practical lab work were set in our schedule. This planning was really advantageous, because you could get impressions of the practical use and the workflow behind such processes directly after the first introduction to this topic.

The first and the second day were designed to get everyone to a similar knowledge level, because the lectures were about printable electronics and everything this technology is based on. There were lectures about every different parameter involved, for example: particle synthesis => ink formulation => printing and choosing the right substrates => applications.

On the third day we were introduced to different characterization methods for varying applications. There were lectures which included microscopical and ultrasonic analysis, Raman, IR, TEM, REM, XRD, FT-/IR and also gas permeability analysis concepts. So we got a really nice overview about all the different technique to test and verify every possible circumstance and property.

Day 4 was the "Application Day" with many different research topics of members of the UHasselt or IMO/IMOMEC where we got a quick summary of their work. The topics were really interesting because you got a nice impression over the variety that the "functional layers"- and "printable electronics" technology have and what you could potentially do with this knowledge. At noon we were introduced in the prototyping process, where we had to work as a team on defined projects. There were subjects like: printed piano, water level sensor, heat sensor and some more. Every knowledge obtained until now and also a small introduction to Arduino programming was needed to work on these printable sensing setups.

For the last day every group had to prepare a small presentation how their prototype is build and how it is functioning and also a small demonstration was performed. It was quite impressive that every one of us could prepare such a setup in this short amount of time, only a little help of the workers there was needed to get everything started.

All in all the Summer School was really interesting and very educational because of the combination of lectures and following practical lab-work. Also there were many lively discussions with the lecturer but also in the groups of participating students about the topics. Hasselt is quite a lively environment and you can have nice sightseeing trips, go to some shopping areas and have a relaxing evening at a restaurant or a bar after your work.

So I would really recommend everyone who is at least a little bit interested in the subject of "functional layers" to join at least once, if you have the opportunity. And even if you are not really that interested in printed electronics, you will always get introduced to other subjects as well during these kind of workshops, which you could find interesting. Personally, I wouldn't like to miss this experience, and would join at any given time again.