EU-Canada mobility programs' personal experience

The EU-Canada mobility program helps students go on exchange from the EU to Canada and vice-versa. I was fortunate to have been picked as one the students to go to Simon Fraser University, Canada for the winter semester. Through this program I got a 5000 euro scholarship with which to cover all of my expenses from the flight there to the cost of every day living. Hence I packed my bags and went to British Columbia, Canada more specifically the Burnaby mountain campus of Simon Fraser University. As I flew in I was picked up from the airport by my SFU mentor for which I applied back home. She was extremely nice and gave me a worm welcome by giving me ride to the SFU Townhouses, my home for the next few months. Although living off campus might be less expensive I'm truly happy that I choose to live there because I was able to make many friends in residence. I met people from all the world as far as from Australia, England, Saudi Arabia, Holland, Poland, Germany, Thailand, Iran, China, France and many more. SFU is truly international with attending students from all over the globe. But Vancouver diversity doesn't stop at university boarders the whole city is like a giant "fruit cake" containing many cultures besides the

Canadian one. So by coming to Vancouver I didn't only learn about the Canadian culture but could sample cultures such as the Chinese, Indian, Iranian, British, Australian and so on.

Vancouver is also blessed with breath taking scenery as it's situated between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Ocean both of them being at half on hour driving distance. It's home to many amazing parks and

entertainment places such as the Vancouver aquarium the home of the famous Beluga and the splendid creatures of the Pacific.

It's one of those places one can never have enough time to see everything .

 While I was there I spent most of my free time looking around the beautiful city where sight seeing is always a good option spend a sunny day, not that we

had that many of those in the winter. One of my favorite things about the city was it's

spotless public transport system. You didn't have to be Superman to get around quickly as you could always take either the many buses or sky trains to

reach your destination.   I even took a ferry ride across to Victoria island, BC's capital city with a gorgeous harbor at it's hearth.
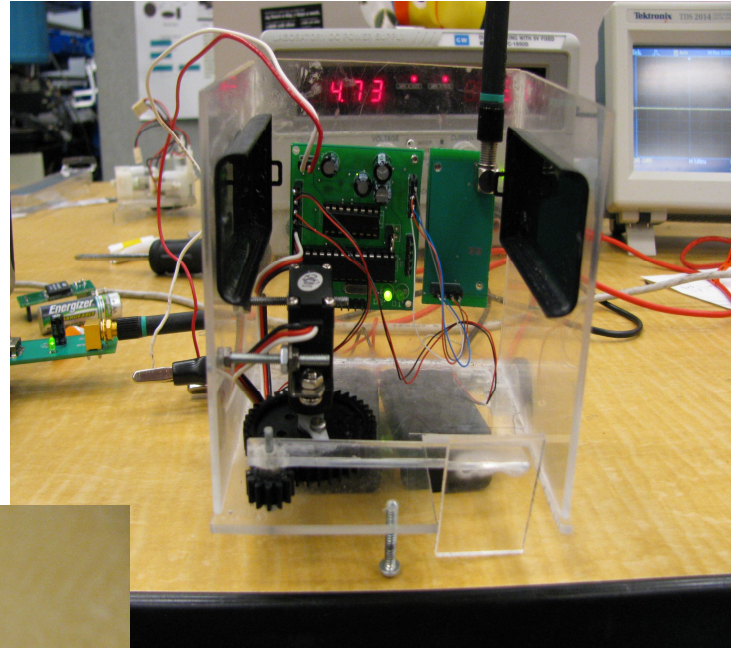

 But SFU didn't only gave me the opportunity to see lots of amazing places it also gave me the opportunity to learn new and interesting things. During my stay at SFU I attended three courses: Real time and embedded systems, Canadian culture and Special Project Laboratory. The last one was one of the main reason I went which is to work on the hardware part of the Hockey robot. This meant
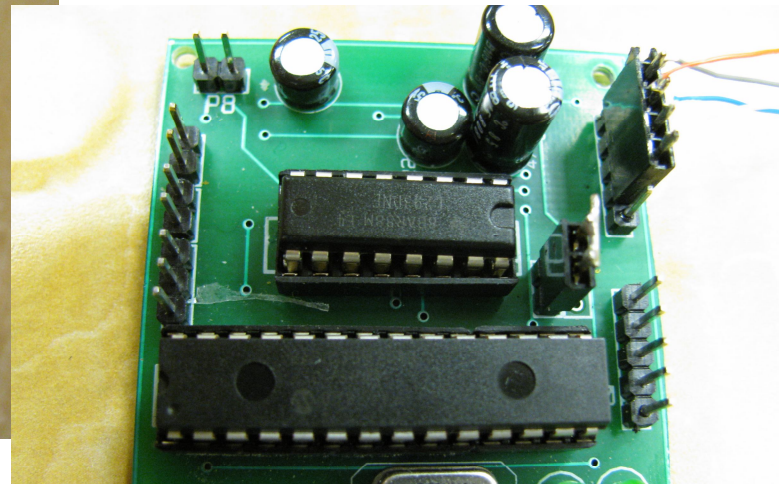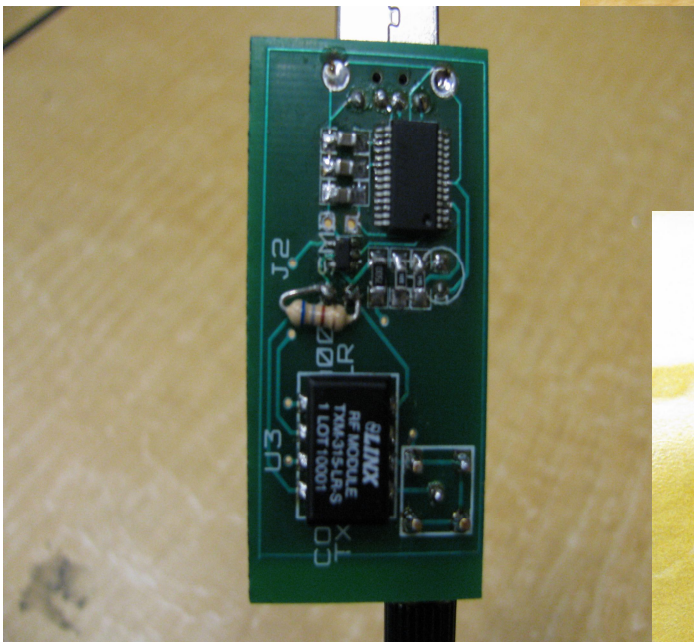
designing, implementing and testing a robot that plays Hockey. My main task was to develop the electric circuitry that is responsible for the radio frequency communication and motor control for the robot. For this I got a desk in the engineering lab where I could work on these. With the help of professor Shahram and my fellow colleges at SFU during my stay I built the communication devices as well as the motor control circuitry and tested it by building the hockey robot itself.

By doing this I've developed my

skills in electronic design and got valuable insight in the buildup and workings of mobile robots. I've also did the low level programming of the microcontroller and a software interface on PC for the communication. In my embedded system course I was thought the inner workings of the QNX operational system specifically designed for embedded solutions. Moreover in my Canadian culture class I received an insight into the history, geography, politics and culture of Canada allowing me to get a deeper understanding of my Canadian experience.

To sum it all up it was a great experience and I thank professors Dr. Marton Lorinc and Dr. Shahram Payandeh for giving me the opportunity of a lifetime.