



It was in Vigo, a traditional shipbuilding and automotive area in the north of Spain, where I studied my Degree in Mining Engineering and realized that I wanted to become a materials professional. Metallurgy and manufacturing processes have been areas of great interest for me during this four-years educational period. Among all, steelmaking has been specially interesting for me. The wonderful image of the hot metal being cast and hot rolled impressed and challenged me, and soon decided that I wanted to know more about it.

After finishing my degree, I got my first job as a research engineer in a welding institute. A year and a half of research-oriented work caught my interest and defined my will of keeping working in a similar environment in the future. Having been working for a while in welding research and with the aim of gaining new work and personal experiences, I finally decided to search for job opportunities in the steel sector.

It was easy to find an adequate programme for me among the ones offered by M2A on their main webpage. The web's excellent look and organization and the strong industry links that Swansea University has with the surrounding industry encouraged me to apply for an MSc by research position. I decided to start with a project funded by Tata Steel, and I have been working on it during almost the last 9 months.

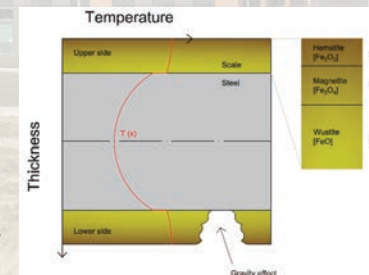


The choice could not have been better. Since I joined the programme I have been given autonomy and freedom for managing and designing my project, accompanied by a high qualified and friendly supervisory team. A large amount of resources has been available both at University and Tata, allowing me to conduct high quality experimental research. Not only did I improve my work-related skills but also, I had the opportunity of improving my English language and personal skills through the diverse personal development activities that M2A organized during the course. Conferences helped me gaining confidence and fluency when presenting my work, and teambuilding events such as the Annual trip were both funny and stimulating, giving invaluable outputs in terms of networking and personal development.

Tata Steel and Swansea University when I gained a position on Tata's Graduate Scheme in July 2018, with the aim of starting in my new position in October. This excellent opportunity will give me the chance of joining the R&D team in the new Steel and Metal Institute, where I will work in different kind of research within the industry. This will imply much more contact with plant reality, thus expanding my understanding of the steelmaking processes. No better way of gaining understanding of how the steel works manufacture the

products than physically seeing them, so I am very grateful for the opportunity that has been given to me. Swansea University facilitated my job insertion by giving me the chance of working together with Tata staff in my MSc project and thus showing my skills to them. This is common to all the research programmes offered by M2A, and it is in my opinion their most interesting feature.

Last but not least, the Swansea area has been shown to be a very nice place to live, with outstanding natural locations nearby and plenty of activities to do. I have met very good friends and I am looking forward to staying here a bit more and starting a new stage in my new job position.



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