

## **A story of an adventure**

In April 2011, when I came to Witzenhausen as an Erasmus exchange student, I couldn't imagine that my next six years of life will be involved in this town.

The SIA program celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and while I'm just a little older, I've spent my best years with this program. My name is *Ehsan Ebrahimi* from Iran and I joined SIA program as Erasmus exchange student from Norwegian University of Life Sciences. After a while, the attraction of the courses, offered by the University of Göttingen and Kassel made me become a full-time student after I finished my master at 2012. During these years I managed to finish my PhD with one of the best professors in my field Prof. *Peter von Fragstein* at the University of Kassel. Besides studying, I experienced a multicultural environment by living in Witzenhausen and Göttingen. My university experiences thus far have been so amazing. Witzenhausen is a very welcoming place, and from the first day, I felt at home here. I have made many new friends from different backgrounds.

The depth and detail of what we have learned was far beyond my expectations. The best thing about SIA program is the flexibility to study what most interests you, with options from organic agriculture to agribusiness. This great deal of flexibility offers in module selection, allowing you to keep your options open at first, but specialize as you gradually discover the areas in which you are most interested. In this program I was able to choose from a wide range of course options. This meant that I've enjoyed my studies all the way through as I've been constantly learning about things that are truly of interest to me. Studying agriculture at the University of Göttingen and Kassel is very different to the agricultures a student becomes accustomed to in their BSc. Studies. Despite the course being challenging, there is still ample time to join some of the many societies and sports activities offered, which personally have given me many amazing memories and have greatly enhanced my university experience!

In some ways, choosing to study organic agriculture was a bit of a gamble. However, on reflection, when looking back at it after seven years, I can honestly say it is one of the best decisions I have made. Now, I try to expand my experiences as post-doctoral scientist at faculty of Agriculture in Witzenhausen, where I turned to a person who I am now.

**Name:** Ehsan Ebrahimi

**Country of Origin:** Iran

**Completed SIA:** 2013

**Current position:** Post-Doc