

Rainer Küngas



Valedictorian of his class at the Tallinn Secondary Science School, Estonia, Rainer Küngas took part and achieved high positions in national student competitions in subjects such as history, mathematics, physics, biology, and chemistry. Upon graduation, he began his undergraduate studies in chemistry at the University of Tartu, Estonia.

By the second year of his studies, Rainer developed a deep interest in physical chemistry partly because of internships offered by various chemical companies/agencies such as Silmet Limited - one of the largest rare earth metal producers in Europe.

During the third year of his studies, Rainer applied to the 6-month student exchange program at the Hong Kong Baptist University. His intention was to fulfill his dream of visiting China while simultaneously challenging himself and his abilities as a scientist in a foreign environment.

Rainer's Bachelor's thesis on the electrochemical properties of solid oxide fuel cells received an award for academic excellence from the Ministry of Education and Science of Estonia.

Upon graduating with honors in June 2006, Rainer continued his studies at the University of Tartu, motivated by the institution's exhilarating academic atmosphere. In order to attain a deeper understanding of the processes involved in fuel cells, Rainer also took a chemical engineering course at the Tallinn University of Technology.

In 2007, he pursued a 5-month internship at Rolls-Royce Fuel Cell Systems Ltd. Rainer graduated *cum laude* with a master's degree in physical and electrochemistry in 2008.

After receiving the Fulbright International Science and Technology award, Rainer enrolled in the chemical and biomolecular engineering Ph.D. program at the University of Pennsylvania. While pursuing his doctoral degree, he has regularly contributed chemistry-related news to the Estonian popular science magazine, *Horisont*.

Rainer is an associate member of the Royal Society of Chemistry and a student member of the International Society of Electrochemistry.