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RISE Essay 2008

30.September 2008

Internship Essay

Best Summer Ever

I agree that my report and accompanying pictures are used by the DAAD in printed materials, presentations and on the website in order to inform funding organizations, sponsors, and students about the RISE program.

And, I also agree that any funding organization, sponsor, or student should not hesitate whatsoever when thinking about getting involved with the DAAD's RISE program. After spending the previous summer amongst some of the most fun, interesting, and smart people I have ever met, I have no hesitation that this program will strongly benefit any who get involved.

My days started at 0900 with a hot cup of coffee, a shot of espresso, and that wonderful milk they sell on the unrefrigerated shelves. After getting my boost, I made my way to the state-of-the-art electronics lab located on the floor below. My supervisor, a Ph.D. student working on his thesis, would then consult with me to see how my testing and work was going with the energy harvesting topics he was overseeing. If my workload was too much, or too little, he would be of great help in assisting me to figure out what he could do. During these three months, I learned priceless information about the process methods, technologies, and research involved in post-graduate work. This experience helped by convincing me that I will pursue graduate studies.

The laboratory experience, however, was not all that I brought home with me. On a near-nightly basis I was given the opportunity to meet the most interesting, fun people I have ever

interacted with. I visited countless cities, bars, clubs, parades, lakes, firework shows, festivals, markets, football games, and so much more. So much, in fact, I am glad I brought a camera to remember them. The scholarship and train passes that DAAD provided me allowed me to see the Europe I wanted to see and visit the places I wished to go.

These experiences kept me in a constant state of awe – Is this really happening? Am I seriously spending a summer in freaking Germany right now? And I am glad the answer was yes, yes I was in freaking Germany right then. These three months have given me an endless amount of stories to tell my friends, families, coworkers, and future employers.

The friendships I made throughout this whole experience, I think, are what I value the most. I now have a global network across multiple countries of people that I know will gladly let me sleep on their couch. I was very sad to leave behind Freiburg and the friendships I made there, but I do not let it get me down. I know for sure that I will be visiting Germany and the surrounding area in the near future. A country that used to seem so far away, now seems like a second home.

These past three months in Freiburg, Germany have provided me with experiences that could never be duplicated anywhere else. On a daily basis I was given the opportunity to improve my professional research skills, expand my world view, and make friends with people from all corners of the world. I was able to experience, firsthand, the excellence of German Universities, specifically mine in Freiburg, as well as see the capabilities of their research facilities, faculty, and students. I brought home immeasurable experience, long-lasting friendship, and a broadened worldview – things that will all, without a doubt, help me to exceed in achieving my goals. I got some cool souvenirs too!