

Since the beginning of my undergraduate career in the States I have had a good impression of the German higher education system. At my current and past university we have always looked favorably on applicants who received their PhD in Germany. So naturally, I perceived the higher education system in Germany to be very prestigious and rigorous. After completing this research fellowship through support of DAAD I leave Germany with no lesser impression than the one I came with. I am impressed by the new change in the German higher education curriculum and the integration of the English language in the pedagogy of the universities and it's faculty. I believe it is a testament of the prestige and rigorous academia in Germany.

The research initiatives both at private and public universities are competent with the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The research initiatives pursued at German universities are at par with prestigious U.S. and Canadian universities, and often are in collaboration with fortune 500 companies. For example, the European Molecular Biology Laboratory is a state of the art research facility with headquarters in Heidelberg, Germany. The laboratory has twenty bilateral university partnerships and funds PhD students from all walks of life to come and do research at one of their four research laboratories. They have partnerships with University of Cambridge, Stockholm University and even the BASF pharmaceutical company.

Aside from multinational research initiatives, Germany is focusing on globalization by localizing it's efforts. What this means is, that students, faculty, scientist from

various countries are coming to Germany to pursue their academic aspirations and are then applying the results of their research to improve things in Germany. Hence Germany is able to offer world class research, a multicultural niche while meeting the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century by keeping ahead in research and development.

As a RISE fellow a student gets to have access to all these facilities and get's to experience the beauty of "science without borders." In my fellowship I was able to apply and experiment with things I had learned in my Cell & Molecular Biology class. For me the fellowship included performing gas chromatography, DNA isolation and gene cloning. While these three steps sound very simple, they take a minimum of three weeks to carry out if each step goes correctly. On a typical day I would walk in, have a coffee, meet with my boss and discuss what tasks to accomplish for the day , then go to lunch at noon with my research team, come back from lunch have a coffee with my research team and then get back to work. Usually I would finish work at 5pm or 6pm and then I would hang out with other RISE fellows in Berlin. Since I was preparing for MCAT exam while pursuing my internship; I would spend the weekend and evening studying for the MCAT at home or at a café.

The other beauty of Germany is that it's close to everything so it's easy for RISE fellows to take weekend trips away. During my fellowship we went to cities in Germany, such as Munich, Heidelberg, Dresden, Frankfurt and other countries as well; Czech, Netherlands, Austria, Turkey and Sweden to name a few. So you get to

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see the beautiful summer of Germany, you get to taste delicious ripe fruit and you get to see Europe at it's best.

Overall RISE program allows you to achieve multiple goals during one summer experience. As a RISE fellow you get to experience international working environment, you get to experience study abroad, because you learn new things in a different country and a different culture, and lastly you get to experience challenges you would face as a working adult when you work for a multi-national company and you have to go to other countries for work. By the end of the program you feel prepared for a job, you feel equipped with skills that are needed for your particular profession, and with international work experience you gain competitive edge in today's job market.

Wishing you all warmest wishes and 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. Pictures have been sent to RISE e-mail address at the DAAD.

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