What is your impression of research in Germany?

I was very satisfied with the process and system for doing research in Germany. I found that all of the students, graduate students, and professors were very helpful and willing to assist you if you asked. I also felt that my research was valued, and that the project that I was chosen to do was important and well planned out for me. I was very impressed by the resources available at the university, and how accessible they were for students doing research.

What is your impression of German universities?

I liked the university I worked in a lot – the campus was fully equipped with all the facilities (library, dining room, gym) that I would expect to see in an academic center. I also liked how diverse the campus was, and I was able to meet people from Germany and other countries as well. I liked how the university also had events for students that provided a way to meet other students and explore the campus as well.

What did you find particularly interesting about your research?

I really liked the project I was working on because I liked how applicable the concepts of rotating packed beds were for a variety of chemical engineering processes. I liked that my research could be applied to applications that varied from pharmaceutical production to the separation of toxic chemicals. I found it very interesting that the machine I worked with could potentially optimize many different processes.

Describe a typical day of your internship.

I would wake up at around 8:15 and get ready to bike over to my lab. I would be at my lab at 9am and check in with my graduate student mentor and we would discuss plans for experiments being run that day. I would then go to the lab to start up the rotating packed bed and begin preparing chemical solutions for the experiments. I would run some test trials on the rotating packed bed to adjust the system parameters, and to make sure that the RPB pipes were running without any holdup. I would then run the experiments and write out all the results. I could run 1 or 2 full tests in the morning, and then stop for lunch around 12:30pm. I would come back to work by 1pm, and then run 2 more tests before starting the clean-up procedure. I made sure that all the waste was properly disposed, and made sure to turn off and clean out the RPB and pumps. I then usually closed down the lab and went back up to the offices to show my graduate students the results and discuss the experiments. I would leave at around 5:30pm each day and bike back home.

Highlights of your stay (both personal and academic).

The highlight of my academic work was when I was able to fix the problems I was facing when operating the rotating packed bed, and began getting positive results for my tests. It took me a couple weeks to fine tune and correct all the problems with the RPB usability and set up, but I was able to find solutions for all the problems and when I ran my first successful run, it was a relief. I was very happy that day, because it lead to a wave of useful data that I analysed and was able to come up with correlations for future experiments on the RPB.
The highlight of my personal stay was when I took a trip to Munich with some friends for the weekend. I had a great time exploring the city, and we spent time in the surrounding Bavaria region hiking in the Alps. It was an amazing experience to see another part of Germany that I had not travelled to yet, and I fell in love with all the natural landmarks that we were able to see.

**What is your impression of Germany in general?**

I really liked how organized and structured life in Germany is. It made it easy to plan out weekend trips and know how to plan your day to day life. I noticed that people typically lived an active lifestyle, and I really liked that because I love playing sports and biking/walking around. I liked the public transportation available in Germany as well – it made it easy to make your way around the city and to also go to other cities in your free time. I also liked that people were very kind to help in general, and when I was lost or did not know how to do something, I could ask people for help and they were usually able to help out.

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