

# RISE Germany 2017 - Final Report

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Name of Intern: Lauro Sebastian Ojeda  
Home University: University of Michigan - Ann Arbor  
Subject: Chemical Engineering  
Guest University / institute: TU Dortmund  
Name of supervisor: Dennis Wenzel and Hina Qammar

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## **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 led to a wave of useful data that I analysed and was able to come up with correlations for future experiments on the RPB.

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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 structure 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.

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