

# Final Report

When I was a freshman in high school one of my friends got an opportunity to study abroad in Germany. He was so excited. He had the time of his life in Germany and he told me all about it when he was back. This inspired me to apply to the same study abroad program, but unfortunately, I was selected to go to Italy. And I had the time of my life in Italy as well, but this desire to go to Germany never left me. I ended up going to the US for college, and then in my sophomore year I heard about DAAD Rise. An opportunity to go to Germany presented itself again and I grabbed it.

Germany is a beautiful country. Both for the people that inhabit it and the attitude and kindness with which they raise them. During my stay in Germany I only met hard-working, wonderful humans who are kind and care about other people. I worked at an Institute for Theoretical Physics, and I was supervised by a PhD student, Stefano. Research in Germany is like the US in that everyone is very passionate about their projects, but the expectations are different. My first week working had a very steep learning curve, but looking back, I could not be more grateful, because if Stefano did not hold me to a high standard I never would have learned all that I have.

As far as my typical day is concerned, many of my days were not typical. However, most often I would come into the office in the morning (yes, I had an office I shared with only one other person), and I would check to see what the results of the simulations I ran over night are like. I would spend the time before lunch working on analysis of that data and checking to see if the simulation needed any help. Then I would have lunch, usually with the other people from the Institute. After lunch I would meet with Stefano to discuss results and potential problems. Overall, it was very pleasant, well balanced work schedule.

As I have citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina, I did not need a visa. My advice, however, would be to check your status and get this sorted out as early as possible. Another thing I wish I did better was packing; check the weather that is typical for your region. It is also important that you do some research on the city

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that you will be in because you want to know if you will need a bike or a train pass, so that you can add that to your budget.

Most importantly, I hope you take advantage of the social scene in Germany. German people are social and outdoorsy, especially the college students. Go to Bier Gardens, concerts, festivals, and lakes. Make sure you are working hard on your projects, but take time to explore and enjoy the beautiful country you will be living in for three months. And have time of your life!

**"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."**