

Report from **Joseph Zarifoglu**

DAAD RISE Internship Report 2019

Intern at the
RWTH Aachen University

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.

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Firstly, I would like to thank the *DAAD RISE* program for this amazing opportunity and experience. I have learned so much thanks to this internship. Indeed, I learned greatly about myself, the field of engineering research and Germany as a whole. In fact, this was my first time living abroad and also by myself so this was a whole new experience for me.

Let me start by giving a few helpful tips for anyone who's considering the DAAD RISE internship. I'm from Canada and obtaining a Visa was relatively easy as long as you have all the necessary documents so I would suggest preparing them as soon as possible. I opened a N26 bank account and the procedure was very easy and also free so I definitely recommend this bank to all future interns. I found my flat on www.wg-gesucht.de which is, in my opinion, the best website to find housing in Germany because you can easily communicate with the owner. Finally, traveling through Germany and Europe on the weekends was really captivating and I definitely recommend the train as a way of transport for these weekends' trips.

Research in Germany, particularly engineering research, can be quite challenging at times but you have all the necessary resources at your disposal in order to attain the best possible results so it's really important to be persistent. Indeed, German universities offer a lot of support to their students but they also expect great results from them.

What I found particularly interesting about my research was the consultancy aspect. My institute (WZL) would find new, adapted and more engineered business approaches to companies if these companies agreed to partner with us.

A typical day of my internship would start at 9:00. I would get a coffee first and then work on my desktop until 11:30. I would mostly work on my codes or review scientific articles in order to learn more about neural networks implementation. We would go for lunch at 11:30 and it would last for an hour. Then, I would work until 15:00 and at 15:00 we would have a coffee break for about 30 minutes. Finally, my day would end at about 17:00 and then I would go home.

The highlights of my stay were my weekend trips to different European cities such as Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels and a couple of German cities such as Cologne, Frankfurt and Heidelberg. I have never been to Europe before. Therefore, exploring these cities and making new acquaintances was delightful. Another highlight of my internship was the moment all of my codes worked properly. I was filled with joy and pride at that moment.

Germany is very welcoming to foreigners, especially Canadians. Indeed, they are eager to teach you about the history of Germany and help you learn German. Also, it was very heartwarming to see all its different cultures seemingly living in harmony. You will undoubtedly make new friends and you will have such nice memories from this experience.

I would recommend the RISE program for anyone who wants to challenge himself and know more about the field of research.