

Juliette Daily

*“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.”*

My 2019 DAAD Professional RISE experience was my second RISE experience, in 2016 I participated in DAAD RISE at the TU Braunschweig. I had such a positive experience that I knew I wanted to come back while I was in graduate school. This summer, I worked at Bayer in Berlin in their internal IT department.

Specifically, I worked on developing, improving, and writing documentation for an internal idea collaboration platform. This was a big difference from the type of academic research I was used to, where I typically work alone for months to put out a paper that people *might* read in another half year. At Bayer, I was interacting with contractors, users, and colleagues every day to make improvements to the platform, and it was so rewarding to see changes happen so quickly. After my 11 weeks, I could see so much of the tangible progress, which is a very short time scale for academia. While there were some challenges from working with others, overall, I liked being able to see the impact of my work so quickly.

Some of the less serious things I enjoyed from working at Bayer were the fancy coffee machines, all the different lunch spots I would visit with colleagues from my floor, and my adjustable standing desk. In Berlin, I enjoyed the excellent public transportation, street food (currywurst, fries with mayonnaise, and Doner), and parks. I like to run at least five days each week and it was always a joy to plot out my path to enjoy the different sights and parks of the city. I was also lucky enough to take a few short trips during my stay. I enjoyed visiting Heidelberg, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Dresden, and Neustrelitz in Germany, and Krakow, Pula, and Budapest outside of Germany. If these locations don't indicate my preferences, my travel tip is to visit cities in Eastern Europe. They are typically more affordable, and depending on where/when you go, there may be less tourists, or at least usually less American tourists.

Overall, I really enjoyed my time in Germany. After studying German for almost ten years on and off, I have come to appreciate the culture and people, but it is also a beautiful country. I will miss looking out the window on the Deutsch Bahn and watching mountains, fields, and the

occasional castle fly by. I have recommended DAAD programs to many people, and I am so thankful for the opportunities it has given me.

