

Angela Moskal

DAAD RISE Germany report

I spent my Fall semester studying the growth rates of single amyloid beta fibrils in a thermophoretic trap at the University of Leipzig with the Molecular Nanophotonics group and it has been truly the most exciting time of my life. Exploring new cities every weekend while learning new lab and data analysis techniques during the work week, I accomplished way more in 3 months than I ever would have during a school semester back home. The work culture in my research group facilitated the perfect learning environment, where very organized weekly meetings kept me on track and informal discussions over lunch breaks regarding our experiments provided unique perspectives that reminded me just how exciting and interdisciplinary my research topic is. I came to Germany not knowing any German and hoping to pick some up along the way, but the reality is that almost everyone speaks fluent English (and will modestly claim to speak only a little bit) so after 3 months, I must admit that I only know enough German to order a döner kebab (but what more do you need, really?). Leipzig is beautiful and my flatmates and peers were very welcoming such that even on my weekend trips to other cities, I would start to feel homesick for Leipzig. I highly recommend the internship to all students as you gain so many life skills which you can then use to go on any adventure you seek with confidence. In the near future, I see myself returning for research in Germany but for a longer time because I am not satisfied with this being a “once in a lifetime opportunity”. It deserves to be a “twice, thrice and so on in a lifetime opportunity”.

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