

DAAD RISE Professional Team,

It is my great pleasure to provide my testimonial for the DAAD RISE internship in my host institution of Freiburg Material Forschungszentrum. The graduate student that I was working with met with me on my first day in the town and helped me get acclimated to the different cultural costumes such as pfand and stores closing on Sunday. He showed me some of the major highlights of the Freiburg im Breisgau such as the Münster and the clock towers, sites that I soon grew to associate with home over my 3 months in the town. My graduate student did an excellent job of making sure I felt comfortable in such a novel environment, especially working in a German lab. Beyond the language barrier, there were many instruments and techniques that were unique to the lab I was working in, but with my graduate student, I was quickly able to pick up the necessary skills to succeed in my work.

My lab worked with a novel form of 3D printing, Computed Axial Lithography, and I was assigned the task of synthesizing a viable bio-based resin that could be used for this printer. I was given a lot of freedom in deciding my timeline and how to approach this project. This manifested in me working for 9 hours Monday through Thursday, then taking a lot of three day weekends to explore Europe. With this flexibility, I was able to gain valuable experiences inside and outside of the lab, traveling to 7 different countries while also successfully synthesizing a soybean based resin.

For future DAAD scholars, I have some helpful advice to make your experience over the summer more enjoyable. For a bank, I used WISE. This banking service allows you to connect American debit cards with your German account, and easily convert money between different currencies. The app is also very reliable, as many of the DAAD friends I made throughout my time in Germany used WISE as well. If you are planning to travel across Europe, I highly recommend buying a Eurail pass. With this pass, you can get a certain number of days of free train travel. Compared to buying train tickets for each place you wish to go to, which could cost up to 100 euros, the eurorail pass costs 27 dollars per day of travel. Furthermore, in the case that trains are delayed or canceled, which is a common occurrence, Eurail allows you to switch trains or find a different route home. Overall, Eurail made it possible for me to visit so many places at an affordable price. Lastly, be sure to get the Deutschlandticket from mo.pla. This 40 euro monthly pass allows you to access any local public transportation throughout all of Germany for the month it is purchased. Compared to spending 5-7 euros per day of public transit usage, it is an amazing deal. I want to thank DAAD RISE again for allowing me to have this once and a lifetime experience.

**“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.”**