



Abschlussbericht über Ihre Stipendienzeit

Nachname, Vorname*	██████████
E-Mail-Adresse*	██████████
Stipendienprogramm	Mitacs Globalink und RISE Weltweit Praktikum
Förderzeitraum	07/2024-09/2024
Gastland/-ort	Canada
Gastinstitution	University of Regina

*Im Rahmen des Abschlussberichts haben Sie die Möglichkeit, freiwillige weitere Angaben zu machen. Sie können Ihren Namen und Ihre E-Mail-Adresse angeben, falls Sie mit einer **Weitergabe dieser Daten an künftige Stipendiatinnen und Stipendiaten** und einer **Kontaktaufnahme** durch diesen Personenkreis einverstanden sind. Bitte beachten Sie, dass diese Angaben nicht erforderlich sind und Sie allein entscheiden, ob Sie diese Daten mitteilen möchten. Eine Einwilligung können Sie jederzeit widerrufen, ohne dass die Rechtmäßigkeit der aufgrund der Einwilligung bis zum Widerruf erfolgten Verarbeitung berührt wird. Richten Sie ggf. Ihren Widerruf über das Portal an den DAAD.

Hinweise:

Der Abschlussbericht ist **spätestens zwei Monate nach Förderende** einzureichen. Er soll Hinweise auf die Situation des Studienfaches im Gastland und die Arbeitssituation an der Hochschule/dem Gastlabor/der Praktikumsstelle enthalten. Insbesondere sollten Sie über die Ergebnisse des Aufenthaltes im Hinblick auf Erfolge und ggf. Hindernisse berichten. Besuche von Fachtagungen und Konferenzen sind ebenfalls von Interesse sowie Anregungen, die der Verbesserung der Arbeit des DAAD dienen.

Kurzstipendiatinnen und -stipendiaten (bis zu einer Förderdauer von 6 Monaten) sollten ergänzend auf folgende praktische Aspekte des Aufenthalts eingehen: Vorbereitung des Aufenthalts, Kontaktaufnahme zur Gastinstitution, Visum/Aufenthaltsgenehmigung, Zahlungsverkehr, Zimmersuche und Miethöhe, Freizeitgestaltung, nützliche Adressen im Gastland. Mit Annahme des Stipendiums (lt. Ziffer 10 der „Allgemeinen Bedingungen für Stipendiatinnen und Stipendiaten des DAAD im Ausland“) haben Sie sich bereit erklärt, dass dieser Bericht ohne Nennung Ihres Namens und Ihrer Kontaktdaten an künftige Stipendiatinnen und Stipendiaten des DAAD zur Information weitergegeben werden kann. Wenn Sie Ihren Namen und Ihre E-Mail-Adresse jedoch gerne mitteilen möchten, um eine eventuelle Kontaktaufnahme zu ermöglichen, tragen Sie Ihre Kontaktdaten bitte oben ein. Aus Gründen des Datenschutzes bitten wir Sie, in Ihrem Abschlussbericht keine personenbezogenen Daten Dritter zu nennen. Dazu gehören alle Informationen, die sich auf eine identifizierte oder identifizierbare natürliche Person beziehen, z.B. Namen, Kontaktdaten, Position im Institut, etc.

Weitere Einzelheiten zur Berichtspflicht sind ggf. in den "Besonderen Bedingungen" enthalten.

Bitte laden Sie den Bericht im PDF-Format über das DAAD-Portal unter dem Menüpunkt **„Berichte - Abschlussbericht“** hoch.

Verlauf des Vorhabens (Textfeld erweitert sich nach Eingabe automatisch; Formatierungen sind jedoch nicht möglich. Für eine bessere Strukturierung können Sie dieses Formular als Deckblatt nutzen und den Bericht als Anlage beifügen.)

Application Process

I learned about the Mitacs Globalink Research Internship through a friend who had initially applied and referred me to the program. At first glance, the application process seemed complex, but it was straightforward as long as the instructions were followed and the required documents were uploaded correctly.

Applicants had to select seven preferred research projects and wait for a professor to initiate contact during the matching phase. Once matched, the application status changed to candidate under consideration, a waiting period where selection decisions were made.

After being under consideration for some time, I received an email notifying me of a status update, prompting me to schedule an interview. Most communication took place via email, which was convenient. Eventually, I was contacted by my prospective supervisor, and we arranged a Zoom interview. Fortunately, I had a good idea of what to expect, which helped me prepare adequately.

A few weeks later, I received an email confirming my selection for the 2024 Globalink Research Internship. My application status was updated to Pending Student Decision, and I was informed of the research project and host institution I was matched with. I then had to formally accept or decline the offer—of course, I accepted.

Pre-Departure Preparations

Accepting the offer meant committing to travel to Canada and fulfilling all necessary travel requirements. Mitacs provided regular updates and deadlines, which made the process smoother. I worked with my supervisor to determine a suitable internship start date.

Additionally, DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) contacted me to assist with the scholarship application, which was also handled via email. On February 16, 2024, I received my award letter, which outlined my financial support and the conditions of the internship. This document was crucial for my visa application and immigration procedures. Mitacs also provided an immigration guidebook, which was very helpful.

As part of the formalities, my host institution contacted me regarding the next steps. I had to register as a visiting research student, which involved several additional applications. Although it seemed like a lot of paperwork, it was essential to ensure smooth documentation and compliance.

I was required to submit a project plan, which I reviewed carefully. Mitacs also provided an accommodation request form, which I completed and submitted to the host university. Additionally, I received information on the payment schedule via email.

To facilitate networking, I was added to a WhatsApp group with other Globalink interns. This was extremely useful, as students who had arrived earlier shared their experiences, which helped me prepare for my stay in Canada.

Visa Process & Adjustments

Unfortunately, my visa processing took longer than expected, requiring me to reschedule my internship start date. This was only allowed once, and for genuine reasons. I coordinated the changes with my supervisor, the university, and Mitacs.

Mitacs with DAAD covered my health insurance, and I received all necessary documents for immigration authorities. Upon arrival in Canada, I had to request a visitor record at the port of entry. This was essential for work authorization and receiving my stipend.

Arrival & Onboarding

For transportation from the airport, I used Regina Taxi Services, as recommended by the University of Regina. The university is just 7 km from the airport, and the taxi fare ranged from \$15 to \$20.

After settling in, my immediate tasks included:

Opening a bank account

Obtaining a Social Insurance Number (SIN)

Attending an onboarding meeting with my professor

I was also assigned a Globalink Research Mentor, a Mitacs graduate who was supposed to provide guidance and support throughout the internship, we hardly talked.

Research Project

My research focused on building a database on prey-predator relationships in fish species worldwide. This involved:

Extracting data from literature, manuscripts, and various sources through a systematic review.

Analyzing the extracted information using a pre-established workflow in R software.

Summarizing the findings into a concise report.

Despite my background in environmental sustainability, the project had a strong ecological component, which meant I had to familiarize myself with ecological terminology. Fortunately, PhD students and fellow interns in the lab provided guidance.

We held weekly meetings to discuss status updates and data analysis in R. Additionally, we had weekly readings on ecological communities, which helped deepen my understanding.

Professional Development

I had access to several professional development opportunities, including:

Mitacs Training Program ("EDGE"), where I took courses in Research & Development Management.

Workshops on essential skills such as project management, communication, and intrapreneurship, led by industry experts.

Professional development sessions organized by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research at the University of Regina.

Leisure & Networking

Outside of research, I explored Canada:

Visited local parks and the zoo in Regina.

Took a trip to Toronto, which was an exciting experience.

After the internship, I remained connected with my professional network and even had the opportunity to virtually attend COP29 in Baku, further expanding my academic and professional exposure.

Conclusion

The Mitacs Globalink Research Internship was an invaluable experience that provided hands-on research training, exposure to data analysis in R, and numerous professional development opportunities. Despite visa delays and initial adjustments, the program was well-structured, and I received continuous support from Mitacs, my supervisor, and my peers.

This internship not only enhanced my research skills but also expanded my professional network and allowed me to engage in international academic discussions. It was truly an amazing experience!