



Abschlussbericht über Ihre Stipendienzeit

Nachname, Vorname*	[REDACTED]
E-Mail-Adresse*	[REDACTED]
Stipendienprogramm	RISE Worldwide
Förderzeitraum	08/2025 – 09/2025
Gastland/-ort	Agartala, India
Gastinstitution	National Institute of Technology, Agarta

*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.)

I spent 6 weeks at the National Institute of Technology in Agartala, India during the summer of 2025. The topic of the internship was Lichen Biodiversity, although my time there varied greatly from the original description, as their research focus had shifted since they submitted their proposal. Instead of field work and collection of biodiversity data, I worked predominantly on molecular docking of lichen metabolites and other in-silico methods. There were limited lab resources available, and therefore also limited flexibility in the work we could conduct. Aside from in-silico methods, I also learned a lot about research design, and we did also have one excursion to collect lichen specimens.

The advisors were in contact with me immediately after my acceptance, and we arranged a video call to discuss the details. I was informed that the focus had shifted, but not of the extent of the changes. They provided advice about travel and visa arrangements, and helped me to organize a stay on the university campus. They were always available to answer questions in the months prior to my arrival and were very flexible when I had to arrive late due to issues with my visa. They also picked me up from the airport directly and drove me to campus to ensure a smooth transition.

Despite the fact that the internship was different work than I expected, I learned a lot. The researchers in the lab were very knowledgeable and there was a strong community. My supervisor and the director of the lab ensured my comfort and safety, and helped me to experience the culture of the region. I was invited to cultural events on campus, and my breakfasts were made by the lab supervisor's wife, so that I could explore the flavors of India. After my time at the lab, they helped me plan my solo travels as well.

I did face some obstacles with the region of the internship. As there had been some unrest in the region in the past years, I was granted very little freedom, for my safety. I was restricted to where I could walk alone, even on a closed campus with security, and I was not allowed to leave campus without someone from the lab. I had no issue as a solo female traveler in other parts of the country, but I understand that they did not want to be responsible if anything happened to me. I was also the only foreigner on campus, which made it difficult to make connections beyond the lab group. All in all, I had a good experience, but it was not exactly what I had hoped from my time in India.

In regards to the practical aspects of the stay, I had a lot of support from the lab, but they did have limited experience with helping foreigners settle on campus. My accommodation was fully arranged by them for me to stay in the international guest house. They also arranged a meal plan for me to have dinners from the cafeteria daily. I self-arranged my travel using sky-scanner, to find the cheapest and most direct options. I flew from Frankfurt to Dubai and then Dubai to Kolkata using Emirates, and then from Kolkata to Agartala using IndiGo, and had a good experience with both

airlines. My supervisors recommended flying into a big hub like Delhi or Kolkata to ease the visa entry process, and I had no issues with that.

I recommend applying for the visa as soon as possible. The consulate wouldn't let me apply two months ahead, so I waited until a month before I left as they advised, and I had to delay my flight because my visa didn't come in time. You will apply for a student visa (S-6, NOT an e-visa for visitors) through the consulate for your region. It requires an online form, and then for you to mail in or give your documents in-person. If you are able, giving in-person seems to be faster. Even though I had the DAAD scholarship, they needed confirmation of financial support from my parents to approve my VISA, so keep that in mind. There are also a lot of visa scams, so make sure you are going through the official Indian visa and German consulate websites.

To be able to pay for things, you will need cash. Some ATMs don't take foreign cards, but all SBI ATMS worked for me. Always make sure you take cash out in rupees instead of euros to avoid extra conversion fees from the ATM. A common way to pay here is with UPI, a system where you scan a QR code from the merchant. The only problem is that you need an Indian bank account to be able to use most of the apps for this. I recommend Mony, it seems to be the only option for foreigners to use UPI, but it is only possible to pay merchant accounts, not personal accounts. This is fine for restaurants and bigger shops, but it often does not work with autos or taxis. There are also some fees for adding money to your wallet, so I tried not to use it very often, but it was very helpful when I ran out of cash or the seller didn't have change.

If you're staying for longer, I found it very necessary to have an Indian phone number. This is difficult to do on your own as you need a lot of documents to prove your identity. I had help from my supervisors, but I have heard that you can also get a sim card and go through the process at an airport. Once you have a phone number, you will get cellular data much cheaper than with an international e-sim, and you will be able to sign up for delivery, taxi, booking, and UPI apps with one-time codes. I recommend downloading Swiggy and Rapido (you may need to change your phone app store to India).