

**Testimonial: Research stay in Germany via the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) from September 2016 – January 2017**

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A five-month academic research stay was performed from 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2017 as part of an ongoing collaboration between University of Bayreuth, IPF Dresden, Germany and CSIRO, Australia. Prof. Stephan Förster (University of Bayreuth), Prof. Andreas Fery (IPF Dresden) and Associate Prof. Daniel Gomez (CSIRO & RMIT) was involved in this joint collaborative work.

The aim of this academic research stay was to maintain the established collaboration between partners and also to broaden my research experience. This research stay has served as a great platform to build up cooperation and establish a strong network between research partners within the Germany and Australia network. During my stay, I have acquired in-depth knowledge and skills from their complementary expertise on template-assisted self-assembly and applied to my own research work. Exciting new results have been achieved and more work is currently under way to have sufficient data to be published as a scientific journal paper. I was also very pleased with the research facilities maintained in Germany and have shared some of the ideas back in Australia. In addition, my work was also presented and discussed in various talks, which allow our collaborative work to be highlighted as well as to lay a strong foundation for future collaboration with other partners in Germany. Regarding the finances, the DAAD has provided a fixed travel allowance and daily allowance for the success of my research stay. Overall, I was very happy to be in touch with our collaborators in Germany through this research stay provided by DAAD and truly grateful for the research group that has welcomed and integrated me into their group.