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Testimonial: Research stay at the Monash University Melbourne through DAAD (Bayreuth-Melbourne colloid/polymer network)

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4. September – 16. December 2016

Within a research project of my master's programme at the University of Bayreuth I conducted a 4-month research stay in the Jasieniak group (Nanomaterials for Next-Generation Technologies) at the Monash University in Melbourne. Earlier collaborations between Dr. Jacek Jasieniak on the Australian side and Dr. Matthias Karg on the German side led to the possibility for this exchange.

The project focused on the green synthesis of copper nanowires for future electronic applications, such as transparent, flexible or even biomimetic electrodes. We could successfully fabricate novel nanowire percolation networks with very low sheet resistances. Jacek Jasieniak not only gave me the opportunity to implement my knowledge, but also acted as a scientific mentor, regarding research questions. I am very thankful for the kind integration in his work group "family". During my time in the New Horizons Laboratory I had the pleasure to work besides very cooperative researchers from all over the world. They gave me the opportunity to gain further experience with wet chemical synthesis routes and post-processing methods, such as the intense-pulsed light technique for preparation of conductive films. I am very glad, that I have the possibility to integrate these insights into future scientific projects.

Besides the hours, I spent in the lab, I had plenty of time to explore the most fascinating places in Melbourne and to relax at St. Kilda's beach. During my stay in Melbourne I was living with lovely students and graduates from different countries, why I further gained intercultural experiences at our daily dinner sessions. I had very good times while driving with friends along the great ocean road and camping in marvelous Australian national parks. Additionally, I spent unforgettable moments with my study buddy from Bayreuth in Sydney and the blue mountains.

I want to especially express my gratitude to the DAAD, which not only helped me with question concerning the stay, but also provided the financial support, without I wouldn't have been able to gain this unprecedented experience. Furthermore, I want to thank the Elite Network Bavaria for additional support during my research stay.

