

Testimonial: Research Stay in Australia via the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Winter 2016

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Inorganic Chemistry II – Catalyst Design – Prof. Kempe

The three-week research stay was carried out from 14.01.2015 to 03.02.2016 in the context of doctoral research in Melbourne, Australia. The following corresponding persons were involved: On the Australian side, Prof. Paul Mulvaney, Prof. Brendan Abrahams, and Prof. Richard Robson (University of Melbourne), and on the German side, Prof. Dr. Kempe (Universität Bayreuth). Dr. Arnim Heinemann and Michael Schneider attended to the research stay on behalf of the DAAD.

The purpose of the research stay was, first and foremost, to foster scientific and intellectual exchange between the working groups involved (Mulvaney, Abrahams/Robson, Kempe), as these exhibit numerous intersections over a range of different research concentrations. In this connection, both the applicability of the analytical methods that are used at the University of Melbourne and are relevant to our research and new metal-organic frameworks were discussed intensively. In addition, our own work was presented and discussed in various talks. This allowed for many aspects of research to be highlighted and the foundation for future collaboration to be laid. We visited the laboratory facilities of both working groups, although we did not carry out practical work of our own – however, this was not the primary purpose of the stay.

With regard to finances, the DAAD provided a fixed travel allowance and per diem, from which the flight and accommodations were to be paid. We carried out the required accounting transactions ourselves. As for our accommodations, we opted for the University of Melbourne's International House, which boasts a very good price-quality ratio, close proximity to the campus, and excellent connecting infrastructure. Despite the short-term nature of decision to carry out this research stay, the University of Bayreuth's International Office took all the necessary steps as quickly as possible to ensure the visit could take place.