

Testimonial: Research stay in Australia through the DAAD

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Physical Chemistry I – Prof. Förster

We carried out our two month research stay at the University of Melbourne from 21.01. to 26.03.2016 at Prof. Paul Mulvaney's research group in the Bio 21 Institute. From the Australian side, Prof. Paul Mulvaney (University of Melbourne) and Prof. Udo Bach (Monash University) were involved, whereas from the University of Bayreuth Prof. Stephan Förster, who was for a sabbatical in Australia at the same time, and Dr. Arnim Heinemann was there for a short while.

The purpose of our research stay in Australia was to build up a cooperation and a strong network between the concerned research groups and all participating Universities by research stay exchange. Our practical lab work was about the combination of polymers and nanoparticles to form polymer-based, opto-electrical nanocomposites and the adaption of nanoparticle synthesis in microfluidic devices. The good connection and integration in the local research groups gave us the opportunity for intensive and advanced discussions resulting in various new ideas and projects for further cooperations. These successfully realized ventures opened us the opportunity for another research stay within the newly signed joint PhD-program. A close network between both Universities was formed.

Regarding the financial support, the DAAD provided a fixed travel and monthly allowance for the research stay per diem, covered our flights and subsistence expenses. The accommodations were arranged and paid from the University of Melbourne. We both were allowed to stay in the Graduate House next to the Bio21 and St. Kilda's College on the campus, which both have an excellent connection to the local infrastructure.



All members of the Mulvaney research group welcomed us warmly and integrated us completely in their group from the very beginning. The multicultural and family-like atmosphere made us feel home and allowed an effective teamwork. Besides the lab work, we found enough free time for some tours in and around Melbourne to experience the beautiful landscape of Australia.