

## Testimonial: Research Stay in Australia via the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Nov 2016 – Jan 2017

Tina Weller

University of Bayreuth

Macromolecular Chemistry I – Applied Functional Polymers (AFUPO) – Prof. Thelakkat

Within a project of my PhD I stayed for two months at the Monash University in Australia. The research stay was carried out from 28.11.2016 to 20.01.2017 at the McNeill group in the department Materials Science and Engineering. In this joint project, A/Prof. Chris McNeill from the Australian side and Prof. Mukundan Thelakkat from the German side were involved.

The purpose of the research stay was to extend the already ongoing collaboration between the McNeill group and the AFUPO group. We were interested to investigate the thin film structure as well as the orientation of semiconducting polymers, which I have synthesized prior to the stay. Therefore, I joined the McNeill Group during their beamtime at the Australian Synchrotron from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> December in order to analyze my polymer samples in GIWAXS measurements. It was a great experience to participate in experiments at the Australian Synchrotron. During the rest of my stay I learned to analyze and evaluate the data. We could achieve promising results, which will be part of several publications. Additionally, some of my polymers will be tested in devices by a PhD student in the McNeill group extending our collaboration further.

Regarding the funding, the DAAD provided a fixed monthly allowance for the research stay per diem covering fully the costs for accommodation and part of the living costs. All travel expenses were funded otherwise. The accommodation was arranged by myself in a shared flat located half an hour away from campus by public transport.

Due to the timeframe of my stay, I experienced the Australian way of celebrating Christmas. I was involved in several Christmas parties at the department as well as the McNeill group.



*Celebrating Christmas with the McNeill group.*



*Christmas in Melbourne.*