RISE - Research Internships in Science and Engineering
www.daad.de/rise-programs

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Programs for North Americans, Project Grants
The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is...

...a self-governing organisation of German Universities

- 239 member universities and 121 student bodies
- Our budget is mainly publicly funded by various ministries, primarily the German Federal Foreign Office
- Total budget in 2013: € 430 million
- Scholarships for Germans and for foreigners
- Internationalisation of German universities
- Promoting German Studies and the German language abroad
- Educational cooperation with developing countries
The RISE program family: Three different program lines

RISE classic
• Research internships in Germany for BA students from North America and the UK during the summer (approx. 300 participants)

RISE professional
• Company internships in R&D for advanced North American students/recent graduates and PhD candidates in Germany (approx. 80 participants)

RISE worldwide
• Research internships for German Bachelor students, spending the summer at universities and research institutions around the world (approx. 250 participants)
How does RISE work?

- PhD students enter their research projects into an online database from October – November.

- DAAD checks each project and, if approved, posts them from December 6th through January 15 for applicants from North America and the United Kingdom.

- Students apply for up to three projects and submit their applications online, linked with the specific project that they are interested in.

- DAAD checks each application and, if approved, “clears” them, so that PhD student can now access them.

- PhD students check all applications to their projects and give DAAD feedback about the quality of their applicants. Their ranking feeds into the selection and placement process.

- Final selection is done at DAAD in February/March.
The mentoring relationship – formal and informal aspects

- **PhD students assist with**
  - Finding accommodation
  - Practical issues (bank account, mobile phone, public transport etc., first bureaucratic steps like going to the Resident Registration Office)
  - Feeling welcome at work and beyond

- **PhD students have the responsibility to**
  - Communicate project clearly
  - Give feedback
  - Assist with questions about the research

- PhD student and the intern are encouraged to consult regularly and to hold at least one mid-term feedback session.

- The BA student is asked to give a presentation at the end of his/her project.
RISE – the scholarship: 2-3 months during the summer
No German required

- RISE grantees receive a monthly stipend of 650,- Euros; insurance through DAAD; 160,- Euros for travel within Germany; and a work permit waiver.

- All RISE participants are invited to a three-day conference in Heidelberg, presentation of study, research and career opportunities in Germany (small career fair)

- Up to 90 RISE participants are placed in a two-week, intensive German language course in Berlin or Munich prior to their internships.

- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3bsCtP187y4&feature=g-upl](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3bsCtP187y4&feature=g-upl)
RISE „classic“ for North American and British Undergraduate Students

Facts and figures
From 2005-2014:
12,913 applications for
5713 projects in Germany
2792 scholarship holders in ten years

Collaborations with North American universities:
MIT, Drexel University, Emory, Northwestern U, Spelman College, Princeton U, Mount Holyoke, Yale U, U of Ottawa, Université de Sherbrooke, etc.

Collaborations with German partners:
German Research Foundation (DFG), German Chemical Society, German Botanical Society, Deutsche Bahn, etc.

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Scholarship Holders</th>
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RISE – a win-win situation for both sides

The PhD students
• Develop their soft-skills in leadership
• Gain subject-specific English language proficiency
• Receive assistance with their research projects
• Increase their knowledge of lifestyle and higher education systems in North America and the UK
• Build long lasting friendships

The RISE grantees
• Gain desirable practical experience in their field of study and research
• Learn about Germany from the inside
• Improve their German language skills
• „Get out of their comfort zone“ and interact with people from other cultural and national environments – personal growth!

DAAD evaluates the program continuously
• Written reports by RISE grantees
• Online questionnaires for grantees and PhD candidates
• External evaluation of the program regularly (2009 by IIE)
Quality Management – what is feasible?

- DAAD prepares both sides through interactive webinars and written guidelines for quality management
- RISE grantees receive a pre-departure handbook
- DAAD collaborates with universities’ International Offices; RISE grantees are included in social activities and mentoring
- A Facebook group as well as lists with contact information of all interns and supervisors in the three program lines for networking
- Invites interns to join the DAAD blog
- Highlight: a three-day meeting of all scholarship holders in Heidelberg where students present their research projects
Thank you for your attention