

Report for DAAD scholarship

My name is Ruan Zhenfei. Since April I have already been here in Karlsruhe, Germany for about eight months. I have a lot of interesting experiences here, for example, in study, in daily life, in communication, and etc., which are very different from my country.

I am fortunate to get the scholarship supported by the project “strategic partnerships for joint innovations-KIT in the Jiangsu and the Shanghai Metropolitan Region” for six months, which has relieved me of the burden of the living expenses here. Thanks a lot to DAAD and KIT.

I am taking part in the double master degree program between KIT and Tongji University. Karlsruhe Institute of Technology is one of the leading universities in the engineering and natural sciences in Europe. KIT is also a member of the TU9. And KIT has a very good relationship with my University. Every year many Chinese students in my University go to KIT for further study or academic exchange, and so many German students come to my University for exchange as well.

When I know this program, I think it is great to have different experiences in a foreign country. Before I come here, I have already learned German for three years. So it is a best chance to improve my German language, and know German culture as well. And international study experience will be beneficial to get a good job. Above are the reasons why I come here in Karlsruhe for studying double master degree.

The preparation took me a lot of time and effort. If we want to study in a German University, our German language must reach a certain level. So I have taken part in TestDaf exam and successfully passed it. The preparation for taking the TestDaf exam took me about a half year. After the joint interview of Professor Albert Albers and the other Professors in my University I get the admission for the double master degree program. My classmates and I should also prepare for the applying procedure, the visa to Germany, opening bank accounts, and so on. We are grateful to the teachers in KIT student office and in my University for being so nice to us, who have offered us a lot of help.

During the eight months' study here I feel good in classes, and get used to the learning tempo here. I think preview and review are very important for study in a German University. Because I study here in a foreign language, sometimes it is difficult to catch up the professors' speech speed. It takes a lot of time, about three months to accommodate myself to the foreign language circumstance. But luckily the teachers and the classmates here are very nice and patient. Even when I can not speak German very fluently, they are very patient and willing to help me. So there are not many problems or difficulties in communication with the teachers and classmates.

From my perspectives, KIT and Tongji University can deepen the cooperation through continuous students' and teachers' exchange programs. If more young students have the abroad study experiences in the partner university, he or she will learn more about other country's culture. It is very helpful for further cooperation because they know how other people in other country think and handle problems. The other idea to deepen the cooperation between two universities is to hold online courses together, for example, in engineering, in education, in arts and so on. Thus the more Chinese students can learn the courses which are taught now in KIT in the Internet, while the German students can also learn the courses which are taught in Tongji University. It can save a lot of time and money but the effect seems good.

Ruan Zhenfei

14.12.2016