

Andy

Max Planck Institute for Biochemistry, Germany

I've really enjoyed my time on placement in Germany. The lab work, the main bit, has been really good. I've enjoyed being able to take charge of my own project, organise all the experiments and get to know the literature. At the end I was able to present a poster on my findings and it felt good to have completed my own work, and to be proud that I was the 'expert' in this small project I'd done.



I've got better at taking time for other people. At the lab and outside I've made some really close friends who I'll miss but will be staying in contact with. My German has really improved too, mainly through chatting with people outside the lab. I've also learnt more about my own strengths and weaknesses, and that it's ok to not be able to do everything. Advice: If you're prepared to work hard, take responsibility for your own project and be challenged, do it. It'll be worth it.

Matthew

Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics, Germany

I feel more confident in the lab and planning my own experiments. I think I have a better idea of what I like and don't like, which I think is important. I would highly recommend studying abroad for a year to anyone, there's nothing to lose and you end up more experienced in life.

Hanna

Friedrich Miescher Laboratory, Germany

I really enjoyed the chance to work independently on my own project for an extended amount of time. Not only did I gain technical and organisational skills as a direct result of my work, I also gained confidence in communicating and making my own decisions, both from work and in general from the process of moving abroad. Generally experiencing new and unknown situations has made me more confident not only about my language, but also generally about dealing with situations in which I don't know what to expect.

The advice I would give to students considering studying/doing a placement abroad is that it is that they should do it. Given that they are considering going abroad, they should take this opportunity since there is lots of support/advice on all the official things you need to do, and while of course there will be things that are challenging, getting through them will make you feel stronger. There are lots of fun experiences that you can have by going abroad for a year that you would not have in York, like meeting lots of new international friends and exploring a new culture and language and trying out new things, and this opportunity should not be missed!