

## **DAAD GeoISAP Bonn – Lima Exchange Program**

No other word describes better these last few months than "magical", the opportunity of being part of the student exchange program and studying in Germany for one semester is, until now, the best experience I have ever had, personally and academically.

Taking courses in English, improving my skills in a second language, realizing the differences between the cities of Lima and Bonn, and being able to observe how the career I'm studying is approached differently in a country so far away from Perú; have been only a few things this exchange allowed me to do and for which I'm very grateful.

Thanks to this opportunity, I was able to personally improve and mature to complete all the necessary procedures to arrive in Germany, do the paperwork, and get ready to be in a completely different country on my own.

After a long trip across the Atlantic Ocean in august, Juan, Sayuri and I arrived to Bonn. We enjoyed our first weeks with really nice weather because it was the last summer month in Bonn. These days we tried to discover the city and get lost a bit across all the beautiful streets.



Figure 1: Our first days in Bonn

Also during these days, we were part of a small mapping of the Brohltal area, in this way Professor Mario Manchego gave us a small introduction to how the mapping is done at the university, and also allowed us to learn more about the geology of the area and the geological events that occurred there, always learning about the geology of a new place is exciting and interesting.

After a few days, at the beginning of September, we had our first official activity as students of the faculty, the mapping of the Pyrenees in the north of Spain, near the border with France. From the first moment, I realized that this field trip was going to be very different from the ones in Peru.

In this mapping, which took about 14 days, I could not only test my geological knowledge in the field but also learn a lot more about the geology of the Pyrenees.

The mapping consisted of an introduction to the area made by the whole group, in these two days we learned and mapped a variety of lithologies belonging to different geological formations. The rest of the days the work was done according to the groups formed, we had to map our area independently. These days were very enriching since we, as a group, had to organize ourselves and work in the field. This mapping trip was a completely new experience for me and I enjoyed it until the last moment.



Figure 2: Mapping days

Back in Bonn, we have to enroll in the courses the university had, in my case, I took the courses Introduction of Planetology and Cosmo chemistry (MGP20), Petrology (MGP10), Geological Digital maps (BW 37), Geological Mapping (BP 08), during the semester I learned a lot about these topics and I'm grateful for it.

We were interested in going to the activities the university offer to the students, in these activities we met friends from all around the globe, and also we got informed about the services the university has. I decided to enroll in taekwondo and table tennis, during the semester these activities allowed me to relax and be physically active.

On the other hand, during the exchange I had the possibility to take a basic German course, which I loved! The teaching was very good and it helped me a lot in everyday life, every time I understood parts of German conversations, or when I could communicate in German in supermarkets/shops without any problem I felt proud of myself. I completed the course very happy and with the intention to continue learning it in Peru.



Figure 4: Our German class in the Christmas market

The winter semester was incredible and allowed me to have several great experiences. The course Introduction of Planetology and Cosmo-chemistry (MGP20) surprised me every class, the information the professor gave us was really mind-blowing and made me realize once more that, our universe is amazing and we still don't know everything about it. Also, I was able to practice my English skills thanks to the presentations I had to do as part of the course.

Even though I already took one similar course in Peru, the course of Petrology (MGP10) allowed me to understand better all the processes related to the creation of new rocks, the rock cycle and how the melting occurs. The focus of this course was slightly different from the one in Peru because went deeper into the behavior of magma inside the Earth's crust and how it reacts with other rocks.

I consider the courses of Geological Digital maps (BW 37) and Geological Mapping (BP 08) really complete because, besides offering integrated teaching, professor Mario was willing to help us whenever we needed it, as part of the course we had to digitalize the geologic map that we had as a result of the mapping in the Pyrenees, it is worth mentioning that learning this kind of programs is very important in our professional career, so I am very happy to have completed the course successfully.

The evaluation system in Germany is different from the Peruvian one, during the course I didn't feel stressed and at the same time everything falls on the responsibility of the students, I liked this a lot because sometimes I can get stressed easily.

The transportation system in Europe is very efficient, I was surprised by the ease with which you can travel through the various countries, it is definitely a continent full of history and contains a great diversity of cultures. Thanks to this ease I was able to travel to some of the countries I longed for, such as Italy,

England, Spain and France, these trips were incredible and I am very fond of them.



Figure 5: Some of my favorite pictures (Paris/London)

In addition, I was able to travel to the closest cities to Bonn thanks to the benefits of the student ticket, and I was able to go for a couple of days to Berlin and Dresden, places full of history and attractions that fascinated me.

Bonn was a wonderful city that captivated me from the first day, the Christmas markets at Christmas, the university days, walking along the Rhine River, and walking along the Poppelsdorfer Allee, all were incredible experiences that I hope to experience again, there is no doubt that having done the exchange was one of the best decisions I have made.



Figure 6: My favorite days in Germany (Berlin/Bonn)

I am very grateful to the PUCP, DAAD, the University of Bonn, PUCP, Dr Manchego, Dr Rosas, for giving me the opportunity to go on exchange, this experience was definitely very enriching personally and academically.



Figure 7: My favorite memories in Bonn

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