

GeoISAP (DAAD) University of Bonn – Exchange Program

These 7 months were one of the best experiences I have had in my career and in my life so far. From the moment you arrive in Bonn you feel a different atmosphere than in the city of Lima, where the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú is located. The people, the culture, the food and the atmosphere, in general, feel warmer, they were pleasant experiences that I will keep in mind when I think back to this exchange I made.

My parents were anxious days before my trip and so was I, however, everything went as expected. And after a long drive of about 17 hours, Sayuri, Emily and I arrived in Frankfurt, where the university students welcomed us and took us to Bonn, where they showed us around and helped us move into our new dorms for the 7 months of the exchange. We arrived in mid-August, so we could take advantage of the summer that still illuminated the streets of the city, at that time we could get to know the city better, walking the streets until late at night, as the sun was not yet hidden and retained an extraordinary charm, and also trying to learn some phrases or words that would help us to be able to get around more.



Figure 1. First days in Bonn.

After a few days, we met with Dr. Mario Manchego, who was our teacher in the Digitale Karten in der Geologische Kartierung (BP 08) courses; who took us on a field trip in the Bonn area and instructed us in a basic course on what was awaiting us in the course in general. So, at the beginning of September we had the field trip of the course, which took place in the Pyrenees, near Les Paules in Spain and was one of the best courses and experiences I have ever had, since it was about sharing in a camp with the other students of

the course for an average of 2 weeks. It was a great experience to live and share moments with the other students of the course, since at the beginning we were separated in bungalows of 4 people and it was there that I was with Emily, Sayuri and Alejandro, who was a boy from Colombia who studied in Bonn, and who helped us in all the mapping, as well as in Germany, since we made a strong bond of friendship between all of us. It was also enriching, since every day we tried to sample a zone of a whole area assigned to each group and in the evenings, we would arrive for dinner and then in a room where all the students met, we would try to give a geological/structural explanation of the area that we covered that day and what was the correlation with the other zones of the other groups. Thus, during the 2 weeks, we shared good moments, such as when we visited some of the towns that were within the mapping area and we could talk with the villagers about some outcrops near our area or also walk with the dogs that each town had and that accompanied us throughout our tour of the areas. At the end of the excursion, we met in a free area and each group talked about their area, the general map that all the groups had colored during all the days was shown and that in the end we were able to put it all together on the same map, where we could observe the geology of all and see what was happening with the geology in each area. Something to highlight of this experience is that we were alone in the mapping, this made us have to rely on our thoughts and decisions according to the geology that we learned in Peru, however, we were also helped and advised by the tutors and even more by the teacher who tried to give us more confidence with our decisions about the lithologies that we found and classified, it was overall a great learning experience that made us more autonomous and more independent in our thoughts.



Figure 2. Fieldtrip to Pyrenees and Brohltal Area.

So unfortunately the study trip ended and we arrived in Germany for the beginning of classes, without first being able to walk around the country of Spain, which for me was surprising, since there were many Latin American people and they reminded you a little bit of your home. Already in Bonn we went to the welcome of the University, where we saw many stands of activities to do within the University. It was a nice moment to talk with people, then we continued getting to know the city, as there was always something new to see. So we got to know more of the city, as well as the cities of Cologne and Düsseldorf, which also had their particular attractions and so on until our first day of classes.

I had enrolled in the courses Digitale Geologische Karte (BW 37), Geologische Kartierung (BP 08), Petrology (MGP 10), and Planetologie und Kosmochemie (MGP 20). My first class was Planetologie und Kosmochemie, but we were late, as we did not know how to get into the Poppelsdorfer Schloss; however, the professor understood us and helped us through the rest of the course. The course in general was very interesting, since in Peru we only had courses directed to mining and we didn't know much about what happens in space with respect to geology, besides, I learned new geological terms with respect to this and I strengthened my confidence in the English language, since we had to make presentations in class about some investigations.

The Petrology course was also interesting, as I had been able to take this course in Peru, but at the University of Bonn they focused more relevantly on the flows that were generated in the magma as it ascended, thus modifying the changes in the rocks. It was a new way to see the course and a complementary way to understand the subsequent courses that I will have in Peru.

The courses Digitale Geologische Karte (BW 37), Geologische Kartierung (BP 08) were interesting, because the professor Mario Manchego was the one who taught us how to digitize the maps that we had painted during the excursion. The professor had a very simple way of explaining and that helped me to understand and understand quickly the software that was used to digitize the maps, also, he came to help us in Spanish when we asked him something that we did not understand, which helped us when there were some terms in German that we were not very familiar with, this was reflected in my optimization of learning the course.

I also took the German course given by the university and it has been a great experience, since we had in the class two students from Mexico, who were Ammy and Alfredo, with whom we established a quick connection and became friends. The course in general was very good, the teacher helped us to understand and had good teaching methods that helped us to understand the language better and more easily.



Figure 3. Digital mapping and petrology classes, respectively.

During all the months in Germany, I was lucky to be able to make good friends and also to travel to nearby countries when I had free days. One thing I like about Europe is that you can easily travel to the surrounding countries, as the travel time is short either by plane, train or bus. So, at Christmas Emily and I traveled to Prague, Vienna and Budapest, passing through Dresden and Berlin; we also traveled to the UK, France and other countries. We were able to take advantage of the fact that all the countries were close to each other and we were able to experience the different cultures, languages and people of each country. It was extraordinary to have been able to go to the history museums, starting with the Beethoven Museum in Bonn, as well as the natural history museums and some art museums around the European continent, and to have tasted the food of all these different countries.



Figure 4. The Christmas market and the first snow day in Bonn.

Finally, I have to thank the DAAD, University of Bonn, PUCP, Dr. Mario Manchego, Dr. Silvia Rosas for this exchange that taught me a lot about the world, and that helped me to strengthen my knowledge about my career, as well as to strengthen my English language and to learn the German language, and to be able to practice it with the native people. Also, I had new experiences in all areas that will help me grow professionally and even more, personally. This experience will be a memory forever and I am looking forward to returning to Bonn to meet again with my friends, the faculty and to have new experiences.



Figure 5. Last days in Bonn.