

GRANTEE EXPERIENCE REPORT

Indo-German Centre for Sustainability (IGCS)
IGCS Research Exchange, Grant Period 2023

experience report

Darla Ashish Pradhan Joshi



Experience Report on IGCS Research Exchange, Grant Period 2023

IGCS Grantee

Darla Ashish Pradhan Joshi

Home Institute | Home Supervisor

Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai | Dr. Rambabu Dandela

Host Institute | Host Supervisor

AVT Fluid Process Engineering Lab, RWTH Aachen University,

Guided by: Prof. Dr.- Ing Andreas Jupke

Supervised by: Niclas Conen, M. Sc.

Research Topic

Copolymerization of Lactones (Polylactide and Polycaprolactone)

Starting/End date of the student exchange period

15.07.2023 – 15.10.2023



A promotional poster for IGCS grants. It features a smiling woman with long dark hair, wearing a yellow long-sleeved shirt and a backpack, standing in front of a white mandala pattern on a dark red background. The IGCS logo is in the top right corner. The text reads: 'Grants For Students and Researchers', 'Conduct Research on sustainability topics in India or Germany', 'APPLICATION OPEN', and 'Floating deadline for the year 2024'. At the bottom, it says 'For more information: https://www.igcs-chennai.org/grants/'. Logos for funding partners (DAAD, Ministry of Education and Research) and associated institutions (RWTH Aachen University, CIAU, TU9) are at the bottom.

About the IGCS Grants

IGCS awards scholarships to students and researchers from India and Germany with excellent academic records, very good English, and intercultural communication skills. The scholarship consists of a mobility grant and an accommodation grant according to DAAD funding rates, as a rule. Learn more about the funding opportunities at IGCS [here](#).

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As a beneficiary of the IGCS scholarship, the participant has committed to sharing their valuable experience. This report is designed to encompass two distinct parts:

Part I: Written Testimonial

I, Ashish Joshi, a dedicated 5th-year Integrated Master's Student in Chemical Engineering at the Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai, bring a wealth of research and industrial knowledge, cultivated through enriching internships at prestigious institutions in India. Noteworthy experiences include my engagements at Indian Oil Gujarat Refinery, BEML Limited, and JAY Chemicals Limited. Additionally, I've contributed to impactful projects like "Polyphenol Facilitated Deposition of Metals" at CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory, Pune, and "Ultrasound-based Enhanced Oil Recovery" at IISER Bhopal, shaping my expertise in the field.

The magnetic pull of Germany's technical culture, coupled with compelling endorsements from instructors who completed their postdoctoral and graduate studies at the revered Max Planck Institute, stirred my curiosity about research exchange possibilities abroad. This curiosity propelled me to delve into the European education system, seeking insights into the nuances of the German educational system and research mindset. The grant I secured is not merely a financial boost but a gateway to defining the parameters of my thesis project and fostering a network of skills crucial for evaluating Germany as a potential hub for advanced education.

My quest led me to explore opportunities at TU9 Universities in Germany, sharing common ground in research interest. The International Relations Cell played a pivotal role in guiding me through this process. During this exploration, I discovered the AVT.FVT Lab at RWTH Aachen University, renowned for its expertise in Fluid Process Engineering Techniques and Methods—an ideal fit given my background in Multiphase Reactions and Processes.

Approaching Professor Jupke and his team, I not only secured an opportunity but also navigated a successful interview, securing a 3-month project. This marked the commencement of my search for funding options, with the International Relations Cells at my college playing a crucial role in introducing me to the IGCS Research Exchange. Subsequently, with the guidance of Ms. Lisa Van Aalst, I successfully applied for the IGCS Grant.

Accommodation in Aachen was seamlessly arranged through the IGCS Community and RWTH Aachen University's International Housing. Further support came from the AISA WhatsApp Community, aiding me in finding a sublet for the duration of my internship. The research experience at AVT FVT Lab proved to be a pivotal point in my career trajectory. Exploring computational chemistry and modelling expanded my skill set, acting as a springboard for future endeavours. Under the supervision of Mr. Niclas Conen, MSc, and the guidance of Dr. Jupke, I not only met but exceeded the objectives initially planned.

Collaborating with international researchers and students in the welcoming environment of AVT FVT Lab facilitated meaningful exchanges of ideas, providing insights into Fluid Process Engineering worldwide. Beyond the academic realm, my daily routine in Aachen involved commutes via the ASEAG bus, preparing meals independently, occasional visits to the Institute Cafeteria (MENSA), and grocery shopping at local stores like Netto and REWE. Engaging with a church community and receiving support from AV RWTH and the AsTA group added a social and cultural dimension to my stay.

Embarking on my journey from Dusseldorf International Airport and utilizing the RE train to reach Aachen, the scholarship amount of 934 euros per month proved sufficient to cover my living expenses. The mobility charges of 1050 euros efficiently covered travel-related costs, health insurance, VISA, and other essential aspects, ensuring a seamless and financially viable research exchange experience.

In conclusion, my research exchange experience at the AVT.FVT Lab, RWTH Aachen University, has been a transformative and enriching journey. This opportunity made possible through the IGCS Research Exchange funded by DAAD and supported by BMBF, Germany, has not only allowed me to delve into the fascinating field of Fluid Process Engineering but has also provided valuable insights into computational chemistry and modelling.

The support and guidance from Professor Jupke and his team, particularly Mr. Niclas Conen, MSc, have been instrumental in the successful execution of my project. The international and collaborative environment at the lab facilitated meaningful exchanges of ideas and thoughts, contributing to my professional growth. Working alongside researchers and students from diverse backgrounds exposed me to the latest advancements in techniques and technology in Fluid Process Engineering.

Beyond the academic realm, my stay in Aachen was made comfortable through the assistance of IGCS, RWTH Aachen University's International Housing, and the AISA WhatsApp Community. Navigating daily life, from commuting on ASEAG buses to managing groceries from local stores, added a practical dimension to my international experience. The scholarship amount provided, along with mobility charges, proved sufficient to cover living expenses, travel, and health insurance, ensuring a seamless and financially viable stay. Engaging with the local community, including a church group and AsTA at the university, enhanced my cultural experience and helped me forge meaningful connections. Overall, this research exchange has not only expanded my academic horizons but has also equipped me with a global perspective and a network of international peers.

As I reflect on this enriching journey, I am grateful for the support from my home institution, the IGCS community, and the welcoming atmosphere at RWTH Aachen University. This experience has undoubtedly been a stepping stone in my research career, and I am now better equipped to consider Germany as a potential destination for future education and collaboration. I extend my sincere appreciation to all those who made this exchange a success and recommend similar opportunities to fellow students seeking to broaden their academic and cultural horizons.

Part II: Digital Media

Grantees are invited to share their experiences in digital media, encompassing photographs, illustrations, or graphics within the context of the IGCS scholarship.

