International research experience - Miriam Brosi

Already during my PhD in Germany I was working in an international working environment with colleagues with international backgrounds such as Italian, Japanese, British, Indian etc. This environment gave me a glimpse into different cultures especially in a scientific setting.

For my PhD thesis I received a Helmholtz dissertation prize that funded a research visit to the Laboratory of Physics of Lasers, Atoms and Molecules (PhLAM) at the Université de Lille, France for two months. There, I compared two simulation codes for collective effects in-depth and applied to two different synchrotron light sources. I was able to be in close collaboration on this topic with the colleagues and could learn about the French scientific culture and experienced the scientific methods and workflows in a foreign laboratory.

Currently, I am a post-doctoral researcher at the MAX IV Laboratory, at the Lund University in Lund, Sweden, in the third year. For this, I moved my main place of residence to Lund and experience the cultural and sociological differences between German and Swedish people. From a scientific point of view my work at MAX IV is broadening my horizon by providing me with new opportunities and challenges at this new and cutting-edge synchrotron light source. It also allows me to study the dynamics and collective effects under the extreme conditions in the state-of-the-art MAX IV storage rings. Here, I am working again in a strongly international team and together with the experience of the local working culture in Sweden, I am getting a valuable overview as well as insights into the differences and challenges associated with the cooperation between scientists of different cultural backgrounds. Furthermore, as I am supervising a student from the local university, I am learning about the differences in university culture and structures which will help me with the supervision of students from different backgrounds.

In general, I can say, that my international experiences including the stays abroad enhanced my general understanding and empathy towards foreign cultures. It also taught me to appreciate the multitude of different working cultures and communication styles and the various benefits they entail.

