

Exchange Semester Summary – Laura Uck

My Master's Thesis at the Research Institute Children's Cancer Center Hamburg –
Independent Applied Research in an Inspiring Environment

Introduction

My name is Laura and I am a Master's student in Life Sciences with a specialisation in Bioanalytics at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW). Having already completed a semester in Sweden at Linköping University, where I experienced the value of international academic exchange first-hand, I was eager to pursue another opportunity abroad. This time, my path led me to Hamburg, Germany, where I completed my Master's thesis at the Research Institute Children's Cancer Center Hamburg over 8 month.

Academic and Cultural Experience

I conducted my thesis in the Neuro-Immuno-Oncology and Cell Therapy working group (AG Mader), which focuses on myeloid cells in paediatric brain tumors. From day one, I was given responsibility for planning my own experiments, finding solutions independently, and truly contributing to the research, a level of independence that complemented my academic training in Switzerland and Sweden and showed me how much you can learn in just 8 months when working hands-on in research. Beyond the lab, my colleagues quickly became friends, making the time in Hamburg not only scientifically rewarding but also personally really wonderful.

Conclusion

This time in Hamburg has been one of the most enriching experiences of my academic career. I gained scientific knowledge, practical research skills, and valuable international contacts. I would strongly recommend going abroad to any student, the professional and personal growth is truly invaluable. I am deeply grateful to FHNW, the FTAL, and the entire AG Mader team for their support and warm welcome.

Attached images:

- Team – „The team“
- Alster – „Taking pictures at the Alster“
- Elbphilharmonie – „Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg“