The internship was carried out at the Institute for Applied Ecology at the University of Canberra, Australia Capital Territory (ACT), Australia. The period of the internship was June 1, 2019 to August 8, 2019 (10 weeks).

With regards to organizational aspects, upon receipt of confirmation of a place at the host institution to carry out the internship in Australia, I applied for the PROMOS scholarship through the University of Koblenz-Landau from DAAD and received a one-time return flight allowance of 1,350€ (partial scholarship). Following this, I applied for visa through the Australian Embassy website and all documents were uploaded online, and the processing period lasted for about a month with the issued visa valid for 6 months. Following the receipt of the visa, I informed the host university and checked for accommodation within and around the university following the advice from our contact person at the university. After conducting online search, I found out that the cost of accommodation in Australia was comparatively more expensive to Germany.

Subsequently, I made a request to the host university for support towards accommodation and after due consultations and seeking the necessary approvals within they granted my request. The university provided towards the accommodation costs and duly informed me to make necessary provisions to cater for feeding and other expenses in Australia. I was able to get information online and from other sources as regards to weather and places of interest at Canberra, Australia. The host had also previously informed me that the period chosen for the internship was winter season in Australia and as such that warm clothing should be carried along and that due to the season there will not be much activities with regards to field work at the university.

For the language skill, my course of study from my undergraduate study and currently at the Universität Koblenz-Landau is being done in English Language which was one of the motivations for choosing to carry out the internship in Australia and to experience life in the southern hemisphere and learn about their culture. The internship was also to further my interest and broaden my scope to learn more about phycology (the study of algae) which formed a significant basis of my undergraduate course and to see the progress made in the study and be acquainted with modern facilities used in its study and its application to ecotoxicology. It is also my plan to work on a related aspect of the study area for my master’s thesis.

One of the reasons for choosing the university was because I was unable to get a research institute here in Germany where phycology is combined with toxicology and importantly because the communication was in English language as such there was no language requirement limitations.

The chosen course (internship) which is an Applied Module at External Organisations (AMEO) is an eight-week internship and its content depends on the actual research questions in the selected organisations which in this case was a collaborative research project involving the effect of environmental stressors on algae/diatom.

The internship involved working on samples from an earlier carried out experiment referred to as the “Sulfoxaflor experiment” by the host institution. The Sulfoxaflor experiment examined the effects of Sulfoxaflor (a pesticide), sediment and nutrients (nitrate and phosphate) on stream invertebrate and algal communities. Therefore, my tasks involved:
Algal taxonomy analysis using compound light microscope to identify, count and document the collected samples.

The internship though completed, nonetheless, I am still in communication with our host institution in the collating, processing and conducting statistical analysis of the data generated which ultimately will be utilised towards contribution to the writing of scientific papers. The host institution was very supportive and made sure my stay was as eventful and educative, as I was given unrestricted access to their laboratory with modern learning facilities and felt very welcomed.

Some of the websites that were found useful for organizing my stay include but not limited to:

- https://www.google.com/flights?hl=de#flt=/m/0qb1z..2019-10-15*/.m/0qb1z.2019-10-19;c:EUR:e:1;ls:1w;sd:0;t:h; https://www.emirates.com/de/english/ (flight and travel arrangements)

For accommodation, these websites were found useful:

- https://www.spareroom.co.uk/?fbclid=IwAR2AEJJa4IrWbBxvLH3La7SdCEn5Lqt52_HNBQV_bdfP QurY0GiQaaHg4

The internship was very beneficial to me as I was able to learn a lot from the supervisor and from other very supportive staffs at the laboratory and also from the weekly seminars (educative) and informal gatherings that were held weekly at the university and around.

It also afforded me the opportunity to learn about Australia and the people, their culture and also visited interesting places that included the Australian War Memorial, the National Museum of Australia, the Old Parliament House, the National Library, the National Gallery of Australia and many other places of interest.

Although, as stated earlier the timing of the internship was the winter season in Australia with limited experimental field work thus limiting my chances of learning more about conducting such experiments and conducting one myself. Nonetheless, it was a very interesting learning experience and I would recommend such for any aspiring student with interest in the study area most likely during their summer season.

Finally, I would use this medium to appreciate DAAD for the funding provided towards achieving this aspect of my study.