

My Secondment Experience

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I am a PhD student at Technische Universität München in Germany, and my work is focused on sugar metabolism in three solventogenic *Clostridia*. For my future work I needed to learn how to work with the system for mutant creation developed in our partner laboratory at University of Nottingham, where I spent nearly 6 months.

Initially I had planned to be only 3 months abroad, but as the work progressed I decided to prolong my secondment, which turned out to be a very good decision. Not only have I had a chance to get to know all techniques I needed for my PhD, but also I started new, very promising projects which I continued after having returned to Germany. As many of my colleagues from Clostnet network were in Nottingham at that time, we could exchange our views and share the experiences.

I find the possibility to change one's scientific environment an important part of the Clostnet project, giving an opportunity to see and learn a completely different approach to science and laboratory work.

For a 3 year long PhD project six months in another laboratory is a lot for sure, but judging on my experience, it is also definitely worth it.