

# Braunschweig, Germany

## Rachel Cantrell



**Program:** Chemistry Research in Germany, Summer 2018

**Major:** Chemistry

### Earning the Career Development Badge:



During my Learning Abroad experience, I was able to experience a new work environment. I was treated like a graduate student, and as such I was given responsibilities similar to those of the other graduate students. Being able to work in a new laboratory environment was a very informative experience. I had to report to the PI with my findings, present my research to the rest of the lab members, and maintain a clear record of my science. While I do these tasks here in Utah, there were different requirements and styles for presenting work in Germany. Having the opportunity to adapt and practice a new method of dispelling information was a great way to prepare me for my future career as a research professor.

### Earning the Research Experience Badge:



Throughout the summer, I was able to experience research in a new light. The laboratory members at TU Braunschweig had a different approach to synthesis than my lab here in Utah. This was essentially brought about by the nature of the chemistry; in Braunschweig, the goal is to identify completely new compounds, whereas the goal here in Utah is to synthesize previously identified compounds. Since no methods of extraction have been developed for the frog pheromones I aimed to synthesize, I needed to develop a chemical library that would then be tested against the natural sample. This method, although somewhat time consuming, was effective, and I thoroughly enjoyed learning a new approach to chemistry and having the chance to try new reactions.

### Transferable Skills:



In regards to school, I've learned to utilize flashcards more during my studies. After the graduate student I worked with in Germany introduced me to a reaction app that acts like flashcards, I was sold, and I've been utilizing them ever since. In regards to work, my scientific communication skills have improved immensely. Presenting my research to the entire lab in Germany helped give me confidence in my own understanding of my research and chemistry in general. As far as home and the community, I am a far more confident and self-sufficient member of society. I know I can thrive on my own, but its more fun with friends to come along with you!



***“My Learning Abroad experience helped me become more confident in my scientific and personal worlds. Being in a country where I didn't speak the language forced me to let my guard down and live my best life. After making great friends and giving a formal presentation to the lab, I know I can do anything I set my mind to.”***