

See original version in German: <https://projekt.bht-berlin.de/elba/testimonials-from-bht>

I look back on my time in the United States with nostalgia and gratitude. The ELBA research fellowship gave me the unique opportunity to spend four months conducting research as a research assistant at The College of New Jersey. In collaboration with Prof. Dr. Alabsi, I worked on developing a machine learning algorithm for predictive modeling of wind turbine wear behavior. In addition to creating adaptive simulations in coupled multiple physical domains, the results of which served as a database for training the algorithm, I developed specific physical approaches for optimizing the loss function. Furthermore, I was able to contribute my knowledge of numerical thermodynamics and fluid dynamics as well as design engineering to provide technical support to students. This gave me the opportunity to gain insights into the development of a space-ready fuel concept for NASA and the development of a hexacopter.

In addition to academic development, the ELBA scholarship also gave me a boost in terms of my personal growth. Whether it was learning to think outside the box, looking at things from a retrospective perspective, leaving my comfort zone, or consciously taking on new challenges in order to grow. In addition, the ELBA scholarship provides the opportunity to experience and actively participate in intercultural exchange. For example, Mila Penkert, my ELBA roommate, and I had the opportunity to share our experiences in the United States as speakers at the panel discussion "Bridging Cultural Differences," in addition to helping to design German lessons and visiting a classroom.

University life in America is completely different from ours in many ways. Whether it's the way knowledge is imparted, student life on campus, or the budgets for student projects. Even away from the hustle and bustle of university life, it was enriching to experience how things can work in a completely different way. So we took every opportunity to get to know the country and its people. In addition to several hikes and trips to New York, New Hope, Princeton, Cape May, and Atlantic City, my journey took me to Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Niagara Falls, and even Toronto, Canada. I ended my stay in the United States with a camper trip in Florida from Orlando to Key West.

The ELBA project not only gave me the opportunity to travel around the United States, learn about the country and its people, experience intercultural exchange, brush up on my English, and grow both intellectually and academically. No, for me personally, ELBA was the last opportunity to see the world from a different perspective before completing my studies. It was the first time I had been away from home for so long and so far, and at the same time, it was the last opportunity I could have taken advantage of. I feel grateful. Grateful for all the little and big things I was able to experience through ELBA. Gratitude for what I had and have before, during, and after ELBA. Gratitude for everyone who supported me during the research fellowship, for everyone who surrounded me, and for those who made this unique opportunity possible in the first place. ELBA took me on one of the greatest journeys of my life. Everyone should have the opportunity to collect such memories—an experience I can only recommend.

Translated with deepL 😊