

## OXFORD – WHERE TRADITION MEETS TOP-LEVEL RESEARCH

As a student of pharmaceutical sciences at the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, I always had the dream of continuing my research at a foreign university with an excellent reputation. I wanted to gain experience abroad and improve my knowledge not only in my research area, but also of the English language. I am now writing my master's thesis in Oxford, which is a great opportunity to experience outstanding academic life.

Oxford is a city that lives and breathes education. Passing by the colleges and university buildings is like a journey into the past, when Oscar Wilde and Margaret Thatcher studied here. Oxford, with its odd rituals and academic dresses, is a very special place. Living in a college enables me to get the whole Oxford experience: eating together in the dining hall and feeling like Hermine Granger in Harry Potter, enjoying the gardens and parks in sunshine, taking part in college sport teams, and enjoying a brunch or a barbecue with other students. The opportunity to meet a diverse variety of people – from archaeologists to engineers; and from Europe, Asia or America – always leads to interesting conversations.

As in Freiburg, you can reach everything by bike, which makes life much easier. On weekends you can visit many interesting and old museums, or go for endless walks along the Thames or the Cherwell. Watching a Shakespeare performance in one of the college gardens after a

beer in a pub is a nice way to end a summer evening.

In the well-equipped Chemistry Research Laboratory where I perform my studies, I'm surrounded by inspiring researchers. It can be highly motivating to be among smart people who are enthusiastic about their work. Additionally, I'm able to attend conferences and interesting lectures, which give me an overview of current research topics. Further talks by speakers invited by the university from around the UK and abroad broaden my mind.

Exploring the United Kingdom with its many interesting places has been, and continues to be, a great experience. After my time in Oxford, I will not only be better prepared for my PhD, but I will also have learned a lot about the United Kingdom and its people. I would therefore like to thank the BCCG Foundation and British Airways for their generous support, and for facilitating my stay abroad.



Eva-Maria Herrlinger, Oxford  
BCCG Foundation Award Winner 2015/2016