

**EMBL Conference:
Lifelong Learning in the Biomedical Sciences
Heidelberg, 5–7 July 2016**

MEETING ABSTRACT

A1.8

Study visit in Germany as a tool for mobility stimulation and continuous learning enhancement from Venezuelan science students and faculty members

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Study visits allow for valuable learning experiences outside the classroom; however, its planning and execution are not trivial, and sometimes budget and conviction of local authorities about the need of this type of activity may jeopardize the whole experience. Despite these challenges, a carefully planned and integrated study visit offers tremendous learning potential for all participants. Our study visit in Germany was a short stay for two weeks for a mixed group of undergraduate and graduate students and also faculty members, financed by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Study visits were performed in 2009, 2012 and 2015, and included short presentations and visits to specialized departments and industries in the biochemical branch. Educational/training institutions like EMBL, DKFZ, UFZ, Charité and Max Planck Institute, as well as several universities with special focus in biochemistry, microbiology, genetics and biotechnology were visited. These activities allowed a forum for discussions, initiated idea-exchanges and promoted learning, with an international scope. Study visits constitute an excellent opportunity to support continuous education and improve scientific cooperation with Europe. This mechanism may be adapted for other scientific scenarios (industries or federal offices). The study visit allowed the University of Carabobo to increase staff motivation and its internationality.

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