



Melisa Estrada Uribe, Columbia

...about combining work and pleasure in the
German Southwest

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Melisa, arrived last year in Karlsruhe for her Masters degree: „I soon felt at home here in Karlsruhe. The town is neither too big nor too small. There is easy mobility by bicycle, tram or on foot. It is safe to walk around at night. It is calm and it is clean,” says the 27 year old graduate student. Her colleagues on the course are truly international and come from Uganda, Kenya, Nepal and China, making her life in Karlsruhe colorful! “Sometimes we cook our typical national dishes in the kitchen and have “international” dinners together.” The fact that the group is very close has been initiated by the director of the programme, Professor Prinz, who regularly invites his first semester students to a one-week-workshop” on the Swabian Alb, picturesque mountains in the German Southwest. Here the newcomers learn how to get around Germany, each other’s different cultural backgrounds and how to integrate quickly into society. The workshop, Melisa believes, is certainly very beneficial.

Melisa’s hometown, Bogotá, produces 6000 tons of waste every day and Melisa’s course in Resources Engineering teaches her how to cope with this huge problem. Studying in Germany and having seen the highly developed technological waste disposal sites here, will be a big plus in Melisa’s bio when she looks for a job in Colombia in a few years. “Clean Production is a very important issue back home and I want to help make it come true,” She says.

Melisa received a scholarship from the Landesstiftung Baden-Württemberg and also works as a student assistant at the Institute. “I want to save some money to be able to stay a little bit longer”, she says. In addition, she would like to use the opportunity to see Germany. Although the course keeps her busy with lectures and homework, there is still always enough time to travel around the picturesque German Southwest: „We have been at the spectacular “Mummelsee” once. And, along with the mandatory course excursions to various industry sites, there is always some sightseeing, too.

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Baden-Württemberg

The German Southwest.