

Reflections on the 2013 EuroScholars Site Visit (Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, PhD)

When I first learned of the opportunity to participate in the inaugural EuroScholars Site Visit I didn't hesitate to register my interest. Why? It was really quite simple. There would be no better way to obtain a first-hand perspective on the research opportunities available for students. This was important since the students who would be participating from my institution could come from any and all majors. My university was considering establishing an affiliation with Globalinks and EuroScholars and on-site experiences and the knowledge garnered through the visit would facilitate the decision making process. As a result of the site visit, I can appreciate that LMU-Munich, KU Leuven and Karolinska Institute (KI) each have the faculty, staff, infrastructure and environment necessary to ensure that students will have the best possible experience. The range of potential research projects across the natural sciences, engineering and medicine to the social sciences as well as arts and humanities, just to capture a few is incredible. I greatly appreciate that as participants on the site visit we were able to get our questions addressed thoroughly and quickly. We have made important contacts at each of the universities and that ensures confidence when attempting to recruit students for the EuroScholars program. The most affirming aspect of the site visit was the interaction we were able to have with current participants in the EuroScholars program. The students were excited about the work they were doing and clearly enjoying the opportunity to grow as emerging scholars in an international context. In case you're wondering the program staff, group leaders and local hosts were incredibly gracious, accommodating, efficient, professional, warm and welcoming. The site visit was one of the best investments of my time and energy. I remain excited for colleagues who may have a future opportunity to participate in a EuroScholars site visit and learn about what the university partners have to offer the amazing students that we all serve.