

# Summary of Feedbacks from the DESY Summer Students 2013

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Compiled in a hopefully unbiased way  
Presented at the 'Students Session on September 5, 2013

We had 95 summer students at Hamburg  
66 returned the feedback questionnaire.  
MANY THANKS

The students were asked to comment on the following topics :

- Administration / Organisation
- Housing
- Work in the group
- Lectures in general
- Specific lectures
- Tours etc.
- What I liked
- What I did not like
- Further comments

## Administration / Organization

- Well organised
- Easy and straight-forward (Most frequent comment)
- It went very well, I appreciate that all the people were so kind
- Criticism:
  - Some information was slow coming out
  - wished to get some information on the distribution to the supervisors earlier (and allocation to DESY site and exact dates/times of arrival/departure)
  - Terms of travel reimbursement somewhat vague
  - document submission... multiple documents which had the same name (e.g. “certificate of enrollment”) .. much appreciated if these are more systematic with an integrated instruction

## Housing

- Hostel:
  - Very nice accomodation (Most frequent comment)
  - The wooden hostel was great
- Criticism:
  - Expensive
  - More utensils and equipment in the kitchen and for cleaning
  - Would be better if each room had its own cleaning equipment
  - A microwave would be a good idea
  - Kitchen in wooden hostel too small/ill-equipped
  - Washing machines seem to be rather old.. one of my T-shirts had been spoiled
  - Pillows were a bit odd
  - I faulted the presence of spiders in the room and bathroom
  - The other students left food out.. until it went moldly, did not properly clean up after themselves

## Housing

- Criticism:
  - You should put more information online about the hostels etc, or at least some pictures/list of what is provided so that we're not bombarding you with as many questions.

## Work at DESY

- Great work and integration in international work. It was much better than expected
- Perfect! Everyone is so helpful and kind. Also my project is very interesting for me. (Most typical kind of comment)
- During the project I had a feeling as I am really a full-fledged member of this group.
- Just great. XXX was a great supervisor, had a lot of fun in the lab.
- I love my colleagues and my supervisors.
- Criticism:
  - I was assigned to a supervisor who was on sick leave.. So, the research part was a total disappointment for me.
  - I am feeling too much pressure for getting some work done in the last week.
  - ..but found my project itself not that interesting.
  - Quite big computer problems in the beginning (I lost 2 weeks)

## Lectures in General

- Most lectures were very interesting – a good supplement to the project work
- The lecture program in general was quite good (Frequent comment)
- Criticism/suggestions:
  - Very differing. Reduce the number of lectures. They really stand in conflict to the work.
  - I guess that it is hard to make lectures at the right level for such a mixed public, therefore, it was very rare the lecturers where on the correct level for me.
  - I feel as though the difficulty of the lecture material jumped far too quickly
  - .. there were like 2 or 3 lectures that went really shitty.
  - The speakers wanted to tell us so many details, so many information, that usually after 15 minutes I was losing my attention.
  - Suggestion: keep a core of few lectures and introduce a series of workshops.. for example a day long workshop of QCD

## On the recommendations we give to the lecturers:

Concerning the lectures styles: We want to encourage the lecturers to follow the recommended **sandwich scheme**:

20-25 minutes lecture

3-10 minutes students activation

20-25 minutes lecture

...

The activation phase can be many different things, e.g. small interactive (paper) exercises, discussions among the students, some stimulating questions, Quiz, etc.



## Specific lectures:

Favourites (best rating):

General:

Dark Matter by Doebrich and Lindner  
Neutrino physics by Hagner

HEP:

Detectors by Gregor  
Computing by Aplin  
Flavour physics by Straub/Ferber ←

Combi of theorist and  
experimentalist works well

PS: Inelastic scattering by Yavas  
Production and properties by Gehrke  
Biological applications by Meent

Plus many others!

## Tours etc.

- Guided tours were very good, both to XFEL and to other DESY accelerators (Most frequent comment)
- Loved it!
- It was very cool to see in your own eyes such big and powerful machines as HERA, FLASH, to see detectors about which I knew only from books till this year
- Criticism:
  - Had a horrible tour guide on the DESY tour
  - Tour guide was fairly inexperienced however on HERA tour
  - Particular bad english
  - Wish our tour guide had known more about the photon science aspect of DESY; we literally went into PETRA III looked around and came back out with the excuse “I don't really know about anything that goes on in here.”
  - Guided tours were nice. You should really get an explanation for the laundry system
- Suggestions: DESY tour could be split and extended (one particle physics and one photon science tour at different days)

## What I liked

- I like, that all the summer students are working on high end topics. Of course I also liked the internationality of the program, which is so interesting and fun.
- I really enjoyed it all in some ways... This was an amazing experience and, most of all, I really liked the work in my group and the incredible new things I have learned here.
- How social and friendly everyone is at DESY
- The overall atmosphere. Everyone was very welcoming and warm and that contributed towards having a great experience here at DESY, while maintaining a very efficient and pleasant work environment. I really liked that some supervisors experienced a sense of responsibility towards training us, the younger generation of physicists, that will take their places in conducting research in the future.
- The free working time! I could sleep during the day and work at night if I wanted... (and few times I did so).

## What I liked

- Everything. The DESY'campus is amazing, it is so green, the beer, chocolates, fruits, transport, german people.... the work is so quiet, I mean without pressure and I found incredible scientists.
- The getting to know other cultures better! It was great, that you chose students from all over the world.
- .I like Hamburg in general, its a very beautiful city with a lot of trees.

# Liveability ranking and overview 2011:

The Economist Intelligence Unit's Liveability and ranking overview, part of the Worldwide Cost of Living Survey, quantifies the challenges that might be presented to an individual's lifestyle in 140 cities worldwide.

Country	City	Overall rating		Culture &				
		Rank (100=ideal)	Stability	Healthcare	Environment	Education	Infrastructure	
Canada	Vancouver	1	98.0	95	100	100	100	96.4
Austria	Vienna	2	97.9	95	100	96.5	100	100
Australia	Melbourne	3	97.5	95	100	95.1	100	100
Canada	Toronto	4	97.2	100	100	97.2	100	89.3
Canada	Calgary	5	96.6	100	100	89.1	100	96.4
Finland	Helsinki	6	96.2	100	100	91	91.7	96.4
Australia	Sydney	7	96.1	90	100	94.4	100	100
Australia	Perth	8	95.9	95	100	88.7	100	100
Australia	Adelaide	8	95.9	95	100	94.2	100	92.9
New Zealand	Auckland	10	95.7	95	95.8	97	100	92.9
Switzerland	Zurich	11	95.4	95	100	92.6	91.7	96.4
Japan	Tokyo	11	95.4	90	100	94.4	100	96.4
Switzerland	Geneva	13	95.2	95	100	92.1	91.7	96.4
Japan	Osaka	13	95.2	90	100	93.5	100	96.4
Sweden	Stockholm	15	95.0	95	95.8	91.2	100	96.4
Germany	Hamburg	15	95.0	90	100	93.5	91.7	100
Canada	Montreal	17	94.8	95	100	90	100	92.9
France	Paris	17	94.8	85	100	97.2	100	96.4
Germany	Frankfurt	19	94.7	85	100	97.2	91.7	100
Denmark	Copenhagen	20	94.4	85	100	95.4	100	96.4
Australia	Brisbane	21	94.2	95	100	93.5	91.7	89.3
Germany	Berlin	22	94.0	85	100	97.2	91.7	96.4
New Zealand	Wellington	23	93.8	95	91.7	95.4	100	89.3
Norway	Oslo	24	93.4	95	91.7	88.7	91.7	100
Luxembourg	Luxembourg	25	93.3	95	100	90.5	83.3	92.9
Netherlands	Amsterdam	26	92.8	80	100	97.2	91.7	96.4
Belgium	Brussels	27	92.7	85	100	91.4	100	92.9
Germany	Munich	28	92.6	85	100	97.2	91.7	89.3
US	Pittsburgh	29	92.3	85	91.7	90.7	100	100
US	Honolulu	30	92.1	90	91.7	88	100	96.4
Hong Kong	Hong Kong	31	92.0	95	87.5	85.9	100	96.4
US	Chicago	32	91.8	85	91.7	94.4	100	92.9
Germany	Dusseldorf	33	91.4	85	100	93.5	75	96.4
France	Lyon	34	91.3	85	100	88.7	100	89.3
Spain	Barcelona	35	91.2	80	91.7	94.4	100	96.4



## What I did not like

- I don't like that it was only for this short period of time :(
- Nothing
- Canteen food
- The C++ lectures, only some groups have bikes, the fridge in the hostel, all the salary is gone in the subsistence.
- Too many lectures



## What I did not like

- The weather ← Olaf, native Hamburgian, suffering for infinite number of years from the weather here replies: “you must be kidding”

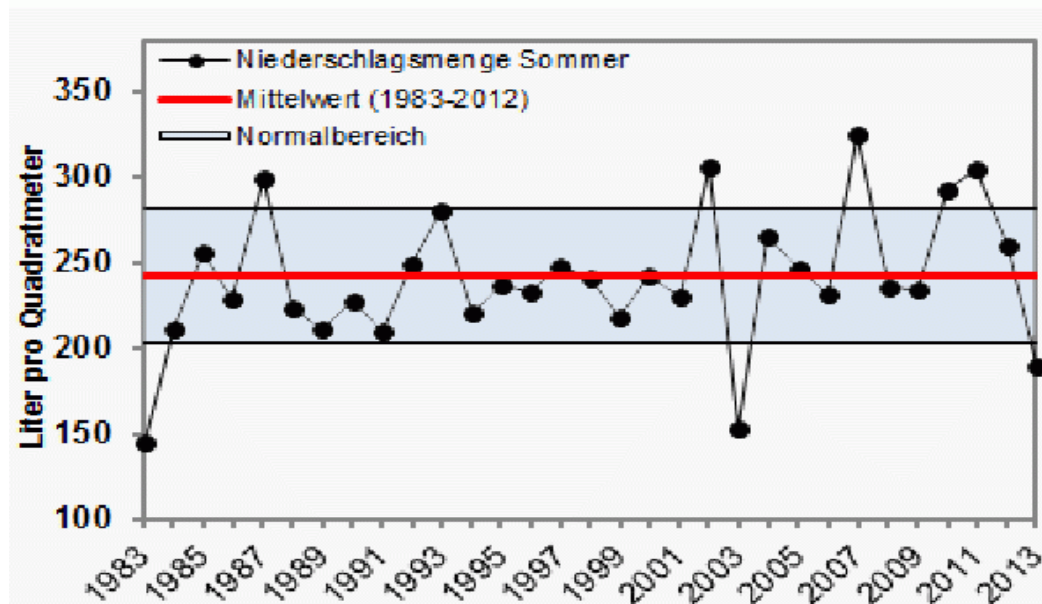
Freitag, 30.08.2013

**Der schönste Sommer seit Jahren**

**Nur 1983 und 2003 noch trockener**

Trotz Rekordhochwasser zu Beginn gehörte der Sommer 2013 zu den trockensten Sommern der letzten Jahrzehnte. Sehr viel Sonne bescherte auch den Zuhausegebliebenen bestes Urlaubswetter. Mehrmals kam man gehörig ins Schwitzen und auch heftige Wärmegewitter blieben nicht aus.

Sehr trockener Sommer trotz nassen Starts



## Further Comments

- I would like to congratulate the organizers for the DESY summer programme 2013, I think they made a really good job preparing so many activities and taking care of that we could get information on everything from the beginning. I didn't expect to have such a good time here in Hamburg, and I'm very happy to have come. In my opinion the summer programme gives an unique opportunity to the students to incorporate to a big scientific community, to meet different people and to develop an interesting work, and all this factors make it a valuable experience from both the personal and the professional point of view.





## A fascinating analogy

**The Beatles,  
A newly  
formed band,  
coming in  
summer 1960  
to Hamburg  
for 48 shows  
'learning the  
basics of  
showmanship'**

Kontinent betrat



Grundlagen des Showmanships erlernten und von einer talentierten aber schüchternen Band zu einer lokalen Sensation wurden.

Ihr weiterer Weg ist wohl nicht nur jedem Musikliebhaber bekannt: Es war der Beginn einer einzigartigen Weltkarriere.

You have been about seven weeks here at DESY, possibly the beginning of a unique international research career!



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# THANKS

to

- Administration : Mrs. Hoppmann, Mrs. Pettersson and all others involved in V2
- International Office : Mrs. Killough and her crew
- Hostel : Mrs. Hummerjohann and her crew
- The Guides
- The Lecturers
- The Supervisors
- And all others behind the scene ....

AND TO

ANDREA SCHRADER



The summer student program ends today afternoon

I suppose some of you still have some work to do,  
since I did not yet receive all work reports.

Please deliver yours still today.



# Thanks to YOU, Summer Students 2013 for

- Your interest in DESY and its research
- All your (active) participation in the lectures
- Your superb project work
- The very nice presentations given today
- Your tolerance when things were not so smooth
- Your kind behavior in all respects

It was a pleasure to have you here.  
I wish you all the best for your future and a safe trip home.

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Yours Olaf, Doris and Andrea!