

And the winner is ...



27 DAAD-Preisträgerin Ivy-Jo Lucas

The interview was conducted by
Finja Schmalz

The DAAD Prize, which is financed by the Federal Foreign Office and includes a prize money of €1,000, is granted for outstanding achievements of foreign students studying at German universities. At the HNEE the prize is awarded annually during the festive matriculation ceremony. This year Ivy-Jo Lucas (from Wales, Great Britain) will be honoured for her outstanding academic achievements and remarkable commitment. In the interview, she tells how she started studying at HNEE and why commitment is important to her.

How did you get the idea of studying in Germany and especially at the HNEE?

I was already living in Berlin when I wanted to start studying something in sustainability. I found Global Change Management through the NGO ›Berufsperspektiven für Frauen‹ and got super interested after receiving information. I researched it a lot but I was already too late the first year for applying. So I waited for one year and applied and then I got it. I was super happy. The HNEE gave me the exciting opportunity to study a master in a field I have not been studying my bachelor's in before.

How do you like it so far?

I love this course. I learned so much in a short phase of time, and I can work with a diverse group of people. We are all from different backgrounds, study programmes and countries, and we are all speaking different languages. It is really like a knowledge and culture exchange, besides learning all of the interesting things of the course. The professors are amazing as well. I am really happy so far.

At the HNEE you were very committed as the semester speaker and also engaged in the ›Sustainable Mensa‹. Why is commitment so important to you?

I think everyone can always do better and try a bit harder. It is important to press yourself all the time, and not just do what you are expected to do, but also go beyond that. Try new things, and see how far you can push yourself and how far you can take things for others. This gives you a lot more experiences and opportunities, and people become happier.

Have you had any commitment before you started studying at HNEE?

During my bachelor in psychology, I set up a society called ›Bright Future‹, which was helping other students to learn about their career opportunities. I was volunteering in a local mental health center twice a week, and also some time

in a school for children with intellectual disabilities. Furthermore, I was working for a night-line, which was a student run night phone service for other students. Students could call us from 8 p.m. until 8 a.m. if they needed someone to talk to while walking home alone at night or if they were feeling low or depressed.

So the well-being of others has always been important to you and something you wanted to support?

Absolutely. I studied psychology because I wanted to help others and somehow after studying it, I realized that one of the biggest threats to people is climate change. So one of the most important things to me became helping people with sustainability, and I believe that with my bachelor's and with a sustainability-focused master's course, I can do that.

What would you recommend other foreign students?

To get involved and not to be as shy as me with speaking German. Go and explore the world and get involved with everyone to help and support others. Meet new people and do not be scared of being in a new place because it is exciting and it has a lot to offer.

Contact
→ international@hnee.de