

## DocMASE - New doctoral programme for materials scientists worldwide

In 2010, the new doctoral programme for participants also from materials science and engineering was inaugurated. Each semester, DocMASE offers 10 exclusive participants the possibility to earn a Doctoral Degree within four years.

Additionally, the Erasmus Mundus Programme supports DocMASE with approximately nine scholarships. Isabella Schramm (25) from Mexico is one of the first participants of DocMASE and talks about her experiences.

### *How is the Programme organised?*

It takes four years in total. During this time the participants have to visit another university, where they work for at least six months. In my case, it will be Linköping in Sweden. Furthermore, I will work for several weeks in Grenoble at the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF), where I will be carrying out research with x-radiation. But you also have to earn credits from fields like languages and intercultural knowledge, in addition to courses in materials science or by leading student practicals yourself.

### *Why did you choose the DocMASE Programme?*

There were different factors coming together at that time. I had just gotten my Master's degree in the AMASE Programme, which is also an international programme managed by the European School of Materials Science EUSMAT. So the start of DocMASE fit perfectly into my schedule. Secondly, I wanted to continue taking part in a very intercultural programme because for me it is important to learn to speak different languages and to collaborate with people from other countries and different backgrounds. You develop a completely new tolerance and you become much more appreciative. On top of that, it is a big advantage for my work that I can have access to so many different techniques and equipment, and cooperate with various institutions.

### *What exactly is your research about?*

I research the 3D microstructure of aluminum alloys and how the structure changes by adding a little strontium, for example. This technology is of big relevance in the automobile industry for instance but it hasn't been thoroughly investigated until now.

### *Why did you decide on a programme at Saarland University?*

I already felt very comfortable here from my time as an AMASE student and got on well with the people here. Also the technical equipment is very high-level; there is even an atom probe.

By Nadine Kreutz