



Nicolás, 26, Columbia

“Compared to Bogotá with its eight million inhabitants, Stuttgart is a small city, but there are many opportunities here ... “

M.Sc. Air Quality Control, Solid Waste and Waste Water Process Engineering, Universität Stuttgart

<http://www.waste.uni-stuttgart.de>

Energy bundle Nicolás Escalante Mora from Colombia gets excited when he speaks of all his activities – academic and non-academic – in Baden-Württemberg’s capital. Unlike most foreign students, he lives downtown Stuttgart. From here he starts off for regular Inline-Skating-Races (Thursday-Night-Skating) through the park between the Palace Garden and Bad Cannstatt. He goes on little trips to Tübingen, Esslingen or the Schwäbische Alb. Nicolás loves to walk the hills in Stuttgart and enjoys the remarkable sights. He likes the safety and the tidiness – compared to his hometown and – of course – he appreciates the central location of Baden-Württemberg in Europe: an ideal starting point for travelling.

But Nicolás didn’t come here just to enjoy himself. He works hard on his career: His academic achievements, his professional experience and his political devotion to help his country coping with environmental problems are the topics that interest him most.

After he had received a B.Sc. at a prestigious university in Colombia, he decided to go abroad and finally found his academic fulfilment in the WASTE study programme at the Universität Stuttgart. For his master thesis on a Life Cycle Analysis of household waste management strategies he just received an award from the Ingenieurkammer Baden-Württemberg. “I hadn’t applied and I had no idea that this would happen”, he says in the interview. “We were having fun on the graduation party. Suddenly Mr. Pfaus, from the Ingenieurkammer Baden-Württemberg, asked me to come to the podium“, the man with the quick multilingual tongue reports and still he looks amazed.

The money and even more the honour and self-confidence he received from this award, will help to get him through his doctorate. “When I have my Ph.D. in Engineering I want to go back to Colombia and and cooperate with government on how to deal with the waste problem. We just don’t know where to start. We are not organized, we are lacking logistics and we have never dealt with hazardous waste at all.” Especially through the contacts he has made in Germany, Nicolás believes, he will be able to organize a network that makes the most of the limited funds for environmental protection in his country.

“I think in terms of technical processes the environmental engineers in Stuttgart are the strongest in the world. That is why I appreciate it so much to have my academic education as a civil/environmental engineer in Baden-Württemberg.” Nicolás Escalante’s (hi)story works for both sides: He is a perfect ambassador for Baden-Württemberg to communicate the countries qualities to the South American continent and a competent internationally experienced partner for the Colombian government, the country itself and its people.

www.study-guide-bw.de



Baden-Württemberg

The German Southwest.