

CASE STUDY

‘My visit to KTH’s labs’



PhD student Ana María Cortés of Aston University, UK, reviews her recent experiences of Transnational Access through BRISK.

exposure to different methods and approaches, and learnt new ideas to conduct improvements in my future work. It was certainly an inspiring experience, both personally and academically.

The international feel of KTH university is a reflection of the multiculturalism of the city. Stockholm is a vibrant, wonderfully green city, full of history and beautiful sights where you can meet people from all cultures, countries and backgrounds. Even though all the local signs are in Swedish, every single person I met spoke English and was happy to help, providing me with directions and even recommending sightseeing spots, restaurants and activities. The university is within walking distance of the fabulous, trendy district of Östermalm, full of cafes and restaurants. Gamla Stan, the old city centre, with its narrow streets and colourful squares, is just a couple of metro stations away.

This exchange was altogether a rewarding experience which made a significant contribution towards my technical and professional development. I highly recommend it to any researcher in need of equipment, ideas and who is up to embarking on new challenges, as well as gaining a wealth of new experiences.

Due to unforeseen changes in the scope of my PhD project, I needed to deliver results on small scale gasification of biomass and residues. Our laboratories here in Aston University, UK are not equipped with the relevant facilities to produce these results, and due to time constraints, the purchasing and assembling of a new system was not a viable option. These limitations began to hinder my progress. It was then I came across the BRISK project, through which I was happy to discover the solution to my problem was within my grasp - surprisingly just an application form and a flight away.

The BRISK application process was quick and simple. All the required information is readily available on the website (www.briskeu.com) and all the BRISK partners I contacted were very prompt in replying to my requests. After just one enquiry, I found exactly what I required at the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) based in Stockholm, Sweden. Their swift response to my application came within a month and all experimental planning was developed with the advice of KTH’s laboratory staff. Right from the start, I was well looked after by their staff, even before arriving. They helped me find a place to stay, sorted out my flight arrangements and made me feel welcome when answering all my questions.

Whilst at KTH, I came across some amazing people, eager to collaborate and work with me, willing to teach and share their approach to working in that environment. Despite only working alongside them for around three weeks, I gained

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Figure 1: During my visit, I conducted experiments on KTH’s high temperature batch gasification system.