**Program:** SUPER-G Biochemistry Internship, Summer

**Meng’s Major:** Biochemistry

**Academic Life:** This program is highly research-centered. I worked with a group on collective cell migration, specifically under supervision of a post-doctorate. The hours were demanding but flexible. There were seminars nearly every day, all of them optional. There were lab meetings and presentations, which were standard for laboratories. The people there were very diverse, ranging from a co-worker from Turkey, to a friend from Germany, to a colleague from Italy, to a fellow intern from India.

**Research Abroad:** I worked on two small projects, optogenetics in neurons (lateral line neuron), and investigating the dependency of lateral line cells on microtubule motors. This took place at European Molecular Biology Laboratories (EMBL). Doing research in a different atmosphere is crucial to your development because you are exposed to new ways of thinking and new ways of doing things. The immersion into research is essential in one’s development as a scientist.

**Housing:** I lived in a guesthouse provided by EMBL. It was a one-room apartment with a kitchen and a separate bathroom. Unfortunately, I didn’t have any roommates, but I did have a fellow intern to hang out with during my stay. Through this, I realized it’s better to explore the area rather than stay in the comfort of your home. That’s how I met strangers who eventually became my acquaintances.

**Study Abroad Advice:** Studying abroad allows you to explore the world from a different point of view and allows you to grow as a person. It’s easy to think that any study abroad experience is a guaranteed win, but the experience is really what you make it.

Meng’s photo of the Advanced Training Center at EMBL whose spiral floors are analogous to the DNA double strand.

“Training at a prestigious institution of research, surrounded by passionate people, was rewarding.”