

My name is Ana Maria Perez Arredondo, I was part of the Göttingen-Talca IARD program from 2014 to 2016.

The program was a professional and individual enriching experience that shaped my career and gave me lifetime friends. When I started the program, my expectation was to acquire business and managerial skills that will allow me to work as agribusiness consultant back in Mexico. That expectation was met in the months I spent in Chile. However, once I got to Göttingen, the Agricultural Development sphere came on stage and the idea of just focusing on getting the applied agribusiness skills was not appealing anymore. After having written my thesis on the analysis of price transmission in the livestock market in Mexico, and having done two internships on agricultural development and climate change, one with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and another with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), I decided to pursue research.

At present time, I am a Junior Researcher and Ph.D. postulant at the Center for Development Research of the University of Bonn, working for the One Health and Urban Transformation Graduate School. My research uses an integrative approach analyzing risks present on the Human-Animal-Environment interplay to tackle problems related to food security, health governance, and household financial protection in Accra, Ghana.

Beyond the academic context, the activities organized by the faculty through the groups of students like the Study-Buddy and the different AGs, made possible for students to interact among them while and experience the German traditions, the culture, and the functioning of the Agricultural Sector. As part of the AG internationals team, I made contact with other groups and initiatives active in Göttingen like Mexikofreunde in Göttingen e.V. and AGROECOL A.C., besides that I got to know and worked together with people that today I consider my very good friends, as well as my boyfriend.

I am sure that most of the SIA alumni had a life-changing experience with the program as I did, and I am positive that current and future students will benefit greatly from this program.

Country of Origin: Mexico