



## Office of National Scholarships

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Muhaimen Shamsi Receives DAAD RISE Scholarship**

Muhaimen Shamsi of the University of South Florida is one of only 300 students selected by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) to participate in the prestigious Research Internship in Science and Engineering (RISE) Program. During his 12 weeks in Germany this summer, Muhaimen will work under a Ph.D. student on an artificial intelligence research project focused on evaluating and optimizing the collaborative behavior of robots for space missions. His internship will involve the application of theoretical research results on real-world robots to overcome problems such as dynamic domain, noisy sensors, non-deterministic actions, unreliable communication, and limited resources. In addition to his time in the lab, Muhaimen is looking forward to living in the wonderful city of Kassel and to exploring other German cities over the weekends.

Muhaimen, an international student from Bangladesh and a junior majoring in Computer Science and Engineering, is currently a student assistant for Dr. Alfredo Weitzenfeld in the Bio-Robotics Lab, where he also works with the RoboBulls initiative. As a team leader for RoboBulls, Muhaimen has dedicated a lot of his time and energy to preparing the RoboBulls team to compete this July in the RoboCup—a worldwide robotics initiative that promotes robotics research. He has also contributed to the research Swarm Formation algorithms with Dr. Luther Palmer. Additionally, Muhaimen serves as a USF GloBull Ambassador, through which he inspires his fellow Bulls to study abroad by sharing his study abroad experiences with them. Upon graduation, Muhaimen hopes to pursue a Ph.D. in Computer Engineering and a career in computer research.

Over 2,200 students from universities in the United States and Canada competed for one of the 300 awards. The RISE program, administered from DAAD headquarters in Bonn, Germany, allows students of

biology, chemistry, earth sciences, engineering and physics to expand their international laboratory skills working alongside doctoral students at universities and research institutions across Germany. RISE award packages include a living expense stipend, insurance, and travel to attend a three-day meeting of all RISE scholarship holders in Heidelberg. Founded in 1925 by German student Carl Joachim Friedrich, DAAD represents the higher education institutions of Germany in support of international research and study through a variety of scholarship exchange programs supporting over 67,000 individuals each year.

The Office of National Scholarships identifies, recruits and mentors high achieving students to apply for national merit scholarships across all disciplines. The scholarships and fellowships are for creative, motivated and academically strong students who are leaders in and out of the classroom.

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