

Interview with **Martin Wiese**

PhD candidate at the RWTH Aachen University, Germany



“I was born in Aachen and having one of the best universities for natural and engineering sciences in Germany here, it was an easy choice for me to stay.”

Hi Martin. Can you please tell us a little bit about yourself?

I studied mechanical engineering at the RWTH Aachen University as one of the last diploma students. The year after the system switched to the Bachelor programme. When I started to study I was aiming to major in aerospace engineering. But I quickly realised that the courses which I liked and which I was good at, pointed at majors in either process engineering or power engineering.

I then talked to friends who already majored in one of the fields and chose to apply for a student research assistant in the Department of Chemical Process Engineering at RWTH Aachen University (CVT). After a short time I was sure: Process engineering is the major field of study I wanted to do. Funny to know: I am still in the same department but now working here as a research assistant with Prof. Matthias Wessling being my supervisor.

My choice for doing a PhD after my diploma came quite late in my studies. Back then I was working in the CVT as a student research assistant for almost 2 years and knew the daily life of a PhD quite well. The combination of great working atmosphere and challenging, diverse tasks was simply what I was looking for.

What is the best thing about undertaking a PhD? How challenging is it?

The best about doing a PhD is that no two days are the same. We work on many different exciting research topics and tasks. There are no boring days here. Days are peppered with fruitful discussions, supervising students, teaching, lab work and much more. The challenge is obvious: being busy with many tasks forces you to adequately prioritise your work to be on schedule.

What is appealing to you in being a researcher?

I'd say that as a researcher (in academia) you have the freedom to look at your research goal from different points of view, make conclusions and assumptions and to simply try them - even if they might fail. As I am an engineer, I usually look at the whole picture: What are we aiming at? How do we get there?

What excites you in ROMEO?

In ROMEO what excites me the most are the ambitious goals we are aiming at. This is very exciting. In the end, many, challenging jigsaw pieces need to fit and work as a unit as it is in a clockwork. Also, working with so many partners from industry, university and research faculties is very unique and fascinating. They all have different perspectives when looking at the project and can thus pose interesting questions and remarks. Communication is key.

Thanks for answering my questions

Martin and all the best with your PhD!



ROMEO in brief

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Scientific Coordinator - Dr. Frank Stenger

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RWTH Aachen University (Chair of Chemical Engineering (AVT.CVT)), has extensive experience in the development of membrane integrated processes.
www.avt.rwth-aachen.de