

# Radboudumc

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I graduated as a physiotherapist after my professional training in the south of Germany in 2007. After this very practical type of education I decided to do a Bachelor of Science in Physiotherapy in Hildesheim (Germany) at the University of Applied Sciences HAWK where I had the opportunity to study in an interdisciplinary surrounding with occupational and speech and language therapists. I finished my Bachelor in 2009 and started to work as a physiotherapist at the University hospital in Marburg, Germany for 3,5 years. During this time I could develop many practical skills. With this clinical experience I am able to work independently with patients.

During my master I have gained practice in neurological rehabilitation and acute neurological therapy during internships spent in specialized neurological centres in Belgium, and in Switzerland. This gave me insight and exposure into neurological rehabilitation at some of the best institutions of Europe. My major in Neurology provided me with the opportunity to gain a deeper insight and understanding of research on Parkinson's disease (PD); more specifically, my specialization focus involved the relevant aspects of Parkinson's disease like balance, gait, posture and freezing of gait.

I am very happy that I got accepted in the Moving Beyond project about freezing of gait (FOG) in Parkinson's disease. The first project I am working on is a study with the walk-bicycle, which is a bicycle without pedals, aimed to unload the legs. The question is if PD patients with FOG during walking have less and/or shorter FOG-episodes while they use the walk-bicycle compared to normal walking. In the future this might be a possible new aid for freezers to help them move in a more efficient way.

I am looking for a new challenge in life and I am highly motivated to do research. I like to see how things change. The field of Neurology changes progressively, that is what makes me so enthusiastic about it.

I am looking forward doing my PhD with this fantastic Moving Beyond team.

Kind regards,  
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