

MANAGEMENT CENTER INNSBRUCK

Host-/Research Institution: University of Nebraska at Omaha	Semester: 6
Name: Marijan Divkovic	

Dear Marshall Plan Scholarship Holder:
We would appreciate your feedback on your research semester in the United States.
Your feedback will help future scholars to prepare themselves well for their sojourn abroad.

1. 1. What was your general impression of your research stay abroad?

Due to COVID, I was not able to stay aboard and had to conduct my research abroad.

2. 1. How would you assess the quality of the host institution?

I cannot assess the quality of the host institution itself. I can only assess the quality that I received based on the supervisor I have worked with. His name is Deepak Khazanchi. He is an expert in the field of machine learning. Thus, he was the perfect match for my thesis. He has always supported me and gave me a lot of valuable feedback and resources. However, I was surprised by the level of contact that we had with each other. In Europe, students usually write their thesis mostly alone and meet their supervisor barely. But professors from the US have different expectations. I had to write every week a status report including information on my current progress, challenges, and upcoming tasks. That forced me to create a clear and realistic timeline. I was also very transparent with my work in progress. Deepak and the supervisor of my home university Pascal Schöttle were always able to access my thesis to provide feedback and see how I am doing. This level of organization and transparency was a blessing. It helped me put a lot of effort into my thesis, provided continuous feedback, and ensured that I finish everything on time. In the end, I finished my thesis earlier than anticipated. The whole process of writing my paper did not feel stressful at all. And I can say that because I already wrote a thesis while pursuing my first bachelor. Writing my first thesis felt more like a stressful marathon. Thus, I am very thankful for the approach that Deepak suggested.

Overall, the support I received by Deepak was outstanding! Based on that the quality of the host institution was excellent!

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3.1. Could you make contacts within the host institution; inclusion in the organization?

As everything was remote, I was not able to make any contacts within the host institution. I only had contact with my supervisor from the host institution.

4. 1. What recommendations would you give future Marshall Plan Scholars?

Overall, I can only suggest people to put a lot of effort into the structure and the planning phase of the thesis. A clear plan will make it much easier to write the whole thesis. Otherwise, I can just recommend going to the US as I deeply regret that I was not able to go there due to COVID.