

Marshall Plan Scholarship - Field report

Host institution: Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

General impressions

My research experience at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center was truly inspiring. I was surrounded by brilliant ambitious scientists fueling my passion for science. Apart from the great institute that gave me the independence to pursue all my professional endeavors, I truly fell in love with New York City. It attracts the most interesting driven people who broadened my horizons in every way possible. Unfortunately, my timing was rather unfortunate as I arrived in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic. Nevertheless, I was able to experience the unique life of an American in the science field. I was able to dive into my work and make my attribution to the most recent advances in translational cancer medicine. Personally, I was captivated the endless energy of this city. I met people from various fields and cultures, gaining insights into their unique lifestyles. I enjoyed the vibrant food, art and nightlife scene in this city and in the end, it put my career on a definite part. The sheer abundance of career-driven people motivated me to achieve more, to be independent and focus on my passion in science.

Quality of the host institution

The Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center is one of the best cancer research institutes in the world. It collaborates closely with the Weill Cornell University and the Rockefeller Laboratories, building the ground for fruitful research work. The research groups themselves are also very open structured. Everyone has different fields of expertise, bringing together the brightest minds. Many scientists in this institute are very high respected in their field and received impressive awards.

Contacts within the host institution, inclusion in the organization

The Ganesh Lab just started when I arrived and had high aspirations from the beginning. I was able to see my project through from the idea to the successful execution. Weekly lab meetings kept everyone on their toes by getting impressed by their fellow lab member's work. It was a great team and for special occasions we would always make time and celebrate. I always felt well supervised and had a lot of great advisors in my group to guide me through my project.

Recommendations for future Marshall Plan students and Fellows

I sincerely recommend pursuing a research internship at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center as it is a great opportunity. It is a very high demand field but if you have a passion for science, let yourself be inspired. Be advised that it is not a university, but a privately funded research institute with the second-best oncology department worldwide. For an undergraduate student it is not common to join one of these labs, so immigration can be challenging. In my opinion, it is still very much worth the trouble. It provides a great platform for young, engaged scientists to develop their professional skills and

dive into the waters of research. The Marshall Plan Scholarship offers you a great opportunity to learn from the best and experience research on the highest level. I am very grateful to be granted that scholarship. As a sidenote, I have to say that New York City is indeed as expensive as people say. So, I would truly advise to take advantage of this scholarship to facilitate your stay here. All in all, I am grateful for being awarded the scholarship, which influenced my future career tremendously.