



**AUSTRIAN
MARSHALL PLAN FOUNDATION**
VIENNA | AUSTRIA

MARSHALL PLAN SCHOLARSHIP FIELD REPORT AFTER STAY

Please complete the report form on the computer and send it in word-format and PDF-format to christa.grassauer@uni-graz.at.

PERSONAL DETAILS

First name	Petra	Middle name	
Last name	Frager		
Research period at host university, min = 3 full months excl. arrival and departure day			
From (DD.MM.YY)	01.07.2016	To (DD.MM.YY)	21.12.2016

FINAL FIELD REPORT (2 pages)

Please comment on the following topics concerning your stay at the host university:

General impression of your research stay

I am thankful to the Marshall Plan Foundation as well as to the University of Pittsburgh that I have been given this opportunity. My six months stay at the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism at the University of Pittsburgh was a very nice time that I would not want to miss. I had the chance to get to know an American city by heart, which normally is not too popular among tourists. Nevertheless, my stay was a very work-intensive time, where I had the chance to gain a lot of work experience, which will have an enormous positive impact on my future scientific career. I really liked the work environment at the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism. My supervisors and colleagues were always helpful and supporting.

Quality of the host institution in regard to research opportunity

The laboratory was well equipped and ordering things needed to conduct experiments was always easy and fast. Collaboration with different departments was very convenient when it came to sharing resources like machines and other technical devices. I would say the University of Pittsburgh makes it easy to conduct research. Unfortunately, it is always challenging to predict the progress of research in life sciences. By the time I had finally been able to generate stable cell lines expressing my proteins of interest, it was almost time for me to go back to my home country. I really had a tight time frame, and I would have liked to have more time to spend working on my project.

Contact within the host institution, opportunity for academic collaboration during stay

Upon arriving, I met my contact person that helped me with the formal organization during the first weeks. I attended scholar orientation, organized by the Office of International Services, where I have been provided with useful information about the University and the campus. Also I completed several online courses on different topics like blood borne pathogens, chemical hygiene, use of laboratory animals in research and education, purpose bred mice and rats in research, radiation safety and research integrity, which made me familiar with the rules and regulations that applied at this University. All these trainings and courses helped to get to know the new work environment and I soon got accustomed to the new laboratory.

I had the chance to attend several symposiums with international experts, including the researcher who initially identified Crebrf (the protein my research was about). Also there were weekly lectures organized by the university, where renowned scientists presented different topics in Cell Biology and Molecular Medicine which gave insights in various different research areas.

Part of my research during this stay was to measure mitochondrial stress and glycolysis. This was done in collaboration with the Vascular Medicine Institute that always kindly let me use their Seahorse Analyzer.

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Recommendations for future Marshall Plan applicants

I would recommend living close to the campus, because I spent a lot of my precious time commuting. Also, try to meet and get to know locals; they can always give you insider tips on activities and places of interest in your new city.

Contact Email after completion of research stay

petra_frager@gmx.net

DECLARATION

- I hereby declare that all information provided in the application is to my best knowledge, correct, and complete.
- I acknowledge and agree to the data included in this application being used for statistical purposes and any fotos of official Marshallplan Scholarship events being used for promotion purposes by University of Graz and the Marshall Plan Foundation
- I agree to my name and contact details being passed on to other students interested in Marshall Plan Scholarship:
 yes NO

Date (DD.MM.YYYY)	31.03.2017	Signature	Petra Frager
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