

Field Report

1. General impression

My general impression of the internship in the Zon Laboratory at Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard University is very good. It was an amazing experience and I learned a lot of new techniques and also improved my English significantly. Boston is a very beautiful and student friendly city, which makes it really multicultural, since so many students from all over the world decide to study in Boston. This is probably due to the fact that some of the best colleges and universities worldwide are located in this rather small city at the east coast of the United States of America. America itself is an amazing country with so many things to see and to explore, which will definitely enrich the life of every visitor. The people are generally very friendly and open-minded, but they have a completely different attitude towards life than Austrians. According to my personal experience, the North Americans are pretty focused on their career, which results in a quite busy and sometimes hectic life. But on the other hand, people are very social and like to spend a lot of time with colleagues, friends and family. I particularly like that the Americans are so welcoming and usually do not exclude anybody. In general, I can say that I learned a lot for my life during my stay in Boston and it was definitely worth it.

2. Quality of the host institution

The quality of the host institution is excellent and ideal for students, who want to gain some great experience in research. The institution is perfectly equipped with the newest machines and everything is well organized, despite Boston Children's Hospital is such a huge institution with a lot of laboratories and employees. The building itself is designed very modernly and the employees are extremely competent. There are several different departments, in which associated laboratory teams exchange findings and opinions on a regular basis in order to support each other and to create a good community. Frequent meetings and talks help all scientists, who wish for feedback or inputs, with their projects.

3. Contacts within the host institution and inclusion in the organization

I was very surprised, how fast the people in my laboratory accepted me as their colleague. Over these seven months, I had the pleasure to get to know so many wonderful people and I made a lot of new friends. At the end of my stay, I was really sad to leave, not knowing when or if at all we will see each other again. I am so grateful that my laboratory team included me so well. This contributed immensely to the fact that I never felt bad about going to work. I even spent extra hours voluntarily, because the laboratory almost became something like a home for me.

4. Recommendations

I can fully recommend Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard University as host institutions and especially the Zon Laboratory. Dr. Leonard Zon, the PI, is very accommodative and appreciates young people who are interested in science, so he gives many students the opportunity to get some experience in his research laboratory. Looking back at the seven months, I would definitely do an internship in Boston again, if I got the chance. I am truly convinced that every student, who does an internship in the Zon Laboratory, will benefit from it in all respect.

5. Contact e-mail

<https://zon.tchlab.org/>

The best way to contact the Zon Laboratory is via the following e-mail address of the PI: zon@enders.tch.harvard.edu