

## **Marshall Plan Scholarship Field Report**

Colton Katsarelis ckatsar@clemson.edu

During my stay at Montanuniversitaet Leoben, I had worked with Dr. Megan J. Cordill and her research group at the Erich Schmid Institute for Materials Science. The students and faculty at the institute made my entire stay very enjoyable, productive, and an excellent learning experience. Even with the number of students at the institute, I was still able to get sufficient access to the equipment I needed allowing me to gather as much data and perform as much analysis as I could during my stay at the institute. With the cutting edge equipment and expertise available at the institute, I was able to get a unique research experience, and the students and faculty helped make my experience abroad exceptional. This having been my first stay outside the U.S., I was pleased with the ease of the transition into working at the institute, and several of the students helped immerse me into the culture of local area and other parts of the country to make for a fantastic all-around experience.

Overall, my stay was a resounding success in from all aspects, so it is hard to think of any recommendations for improvement. For future students, I would recommend that there be a suggested set of formatting guidelines for the final report. To the best of my knowledge, I never received any guidelines so I resorted to standard formatting that I knew was common for a thesis or report in the U.S. While the program is designed primarily as a research exchange to nurture or reinforce collaboration, encouraging students to immerse themselves in the culture of the country can make the prospect even more beneficial. For this sort of scholarship program, this is generally implied by the and for me this encouragement was more from my research advisors and students I had met during my stay, but this may not be the case for every student.