



Field Report - Semester Abroad at the University of Portland, Oregon, USA

Fall Semester 2016

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My stay at the University of Portland was a great experience I would not like to miss. The relationship between professors and students was very informal, collegial and friendly, which made working on my research project much easier.

The University of Portland is with about 4,000 students comparatively small to other American universities. International students got invited on campus a few days before the general orientation for freshmen, to get to know the campus and other international students. Mr. Michael Pelley, Director of International Student Services, informed about the US culture itself, about campus and student life, as well as insurance and Visa issues. This was very helpful, since it is very hard to find correct information about these topics. The orientation for freshmen started after the orientation for international students and was optional to attend.

Dr. Mark Kennedy, Professor of Civil Engineering, helped me organizing my classes and my research schedule at the University of Portland. He got me in touch with Dr. Olivia C. Coiado, Assistant Professor of Electrical and Biomedical Engineering, who set up a great research team and supervised me during the research at the University of Portland. Weekly meetings enabled fast progress in our research project.

During my research, I started writing on my Marshall Plan Research Paper very early. I would recommend doing this for future Marshall Plan students and fellows. Because of that, I had no stress at all, had enough time to proofread the paper several times and discuss the various chapters with my supervisors. I am thankful for the help of Dr. Manuel Selg, Professor for Biotechnology, who supervised my while finalizing my research paper. However, it also helped to have a supervisor at the University of Portland. Since Dr. Coiado led the cardiac research team, she was able to answer various questions and help me organize my gathered information to fulfill the requirements of the Marshall Plan Foundation.

The classes I took during my stay at the University of Portland were Environmental Sciences, Mechanics of Fluids, Heart Pump Modeling and Anatomy & Physiology for Biomedical Engineers. I really enjoyed all of those classes and was able to gain a lot of knowledge in the specific fields. The class size ranged from 7 to about 35 people and each class was taught by one professor. Each professor had "office hours" where students could come and ask questions about homework or topics discussed in class. I would recommend stopping by a professor's office some time to ask questions that occurred during class. This helps students to understand new topics or homework problems.

In conclusion, I would not like to miss this wonderful and adventurous time and experience in my life. The University of Portland is a highly recommendable University which taught me more than just engineering aspects by showing me different approaches for engineering. I was able to gain important knowledge that helps me for my planned Master's degree and to start my career as an international engineer. Furthermore, my semester abroad is a great bonus that helps me to stand out from the crowd when I apply for internships or my bachelor project.

Wels, January 31, 2017

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E. Lehner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E" and a long, sweeping underline.

Edwine Lehner