

Chapter 6

Personal Account

I have studied in Salzburg University of Applied Sciences for four months. During the four-month study, I continued my research on the model-based design of the measurement system application. Faculty, staff and students in this university have impressed me a lot for their expertise and enthusiasm on the research. I strongly recommend graduate students in America apply for the MPS scholarship and enjoy the exchanging experience in the Salzburg University of Applied Sciences.

6.1 Overall Impression of the Research Period

During my stay in Salzburg University of Applied Sciences, I have been impressed a lot for my research experience in this University.

6.1.1 Support from the International Office

During my application for the MPS scholarship, the staff in the international office helped me a lot on how to complete the application including answering the questions I had when applying and providing effective information on the scholarship application. I appreciate a lot for their friendly help and timely assistance.

After I received the offer from MPS foundation, they positively contacted me on my preparation for coming and joining the university this year. Moreover,

they created a Facebook group for the incoming students and volunteers from the university so that all incoming students had the opportunity to communicate with current students in the university and better know about Salzburg and Austria before arriving. Before the beginning of the semester, I was invited to attend the welcome week for all incoming students. Plenty of events are provided in this week to help us be familiar with the Salzburg city and the university itself. This effectively help students adapted to the new life in Salzburg faster.

During the study and research in the Salzburg University of Applied Sciences, the international office has provided a series of events such as visiting a famous salt mine in Salzburg and hiking. This enriched our life in Austria a lot. The service and instructions provided by the international office guided us know Salzburg and studied in Salzburg better. They did make a lot of efforts to let us understand and learn the culture in Austria.

6.1.2 Support and Communication with IT Department

I am a graduate student majoring in electrical and computer engineering. Faculty in Department of Information Technology & Systems Management is my advisor during the exchanging study. All staff and faculty in the department are very friendly and helpful. Due to my research project requirement, some equipment and software are necessary for my research project. When I discussed my project with them before my arrival, they supported a lot on preparing the equipment and software facilities for my research study. After my arrival, staff in the department

introduced the whole university and department to me with enthusiasm. To help me more involved in the department events, I was invited to join the regular meeting of the department and several important public events this semester. These events let me have a better understanding for the department culture and research projects it has. I was also invited to participate in the regular meeting of one research project. Discussion for the project in that semester expand horizons on different research areas.

6.2 Quality of the Research Institution

The overall quality of Salzburg University of Applied Sciences is pretty good. Although the university doesn't cover majors for all different subjects, the majors it has are very practical and largely required in the job market.

Campus of Salzburg University of Applied Sciences is perfectly formed though small. Facilities like library, printing service and canteen are provided as well as those outdoor facilities such as a mini beach volleyball court.

Although most of the departments in the university are in the same building, Department of Information Technology & Systems Management is able to provide several labs for different experiments' requirements. Besides, there are lab assistants coordinating lab-related preparation including hardware and software facilities. Lounge and discussion areas make it more convenient for students and faculty to discuss and talk about the research.

All in all, the quality of the research institution is satisfactory and full of

surprise.

6.3 Integration in the research institution/organization

During my study in Salzburg University of Applied Sciences, I have attended most events invited by the IT department. The following is what I have done to be integrated to the research in the IT department.

There are a lot of research projects in the IT department. My research advisor who is in charge of several projects invited me to join in the regular meeting of one project every week. The discussion in the meeting promoted the understanding and communication with each other. I have benefited a lot from these meetings. Besides that, the department regular meetings I joined were given me a picture of working and research style in Europe. During the semester, I was lucky to attend a seminar about MATLAB hosted by IT department and joined in several events for propagating the research projects and showing the research projects in the departments to the potential students and people from the industries. Furthermore, I was also invited to do a presentation introducing what I have done during the study in Salzburg. I first introduced my research lab in home university and software tools developed by my research group. After that I introduced and discussed about my research topic and what I have done in these four month study. Such presentation and further discussion did help us know about the research with each other much better and make me involved in the department better.

6.4 Recommendations for future MPS scholars/fellows

First of all, I strongly recommend future potential students apply for the MPS scholarship. Furthermore I also encourage students to choose Salzburg University of Applied Sciences as their host university.

Austria locates at the center of Europe. Therefore it is much easier for students to visit other Europe countries. On the other side, culture and history in Austria could represent the Europe historical process to some extent. Salzburg, an important city in Austria will give a basic picture of Austria history as well.

Another aspect is the education system. Education system in Austria is quite different from what USA has. Experience of studying in Austria helps students expand their horizons and know more about the whole world. Students will benefits a lot from the education system in Austria.

Last but not least, there are opportunities that students could participate in research projects in the university. One feature of the research project in Salzburg University of Applied Sciences is that they frequently collaborate with companies in the industry. Students could practice their skills in developing such research project and discuss with people in the company which is also helpful for their future career plan.

6.5 Contact information (email address) after the research period

Contact information after the research period: yzliu@umd.edu