

Marshall Plan Field Report

Julian Hamernik

Introduction

Professor Barbu, my supervisor at the University of Applied Sciences Salzburg, offered me the unique possibility to do an internship at the University of Tennessee. My supervisor at the University of Tennessee was Prof. Young, which is also a Graduate Director at the Center for Renewable Carbon, Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries. I've spent 3 ½ months in total in the US.

General impression of your research stay abroad

During my stay in Knoxville, I was mainly working at the Center for Renewable Carbon, which belongs to the Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries. I have experienced the way research is conducted in America compared to Austria.

A very valuable experience for me was the Statistical Process Control class, which was held by Prof. Young. I got the chance to meet people from the industry which shared their personal work experience with me. Also, I could already use the statistical tools and techniques at for my current work.

As my Project was to find Sources of Variation in Treated Wood, I spent one week at an impregnation plant in Sweetwater, TN. I got the chance to work together with the operators and learned a lot about the American Wood Industry. Also, everybody at the treatment plant was very supportive and friendly to me.

Throughout the 3 months I also had the opportunity to travel to other states, like Virginia. There we have visited Virginia Tech and saw mills. This helped me to learn more about American companies and way of business. I am sure that this input is going to help me a lot in my future work life

I also obtained a Tennessee drivers licence, which was not mandatory but still a nice experience and good thing to have as you can use it as a valid ID.

Overall, my work and research experience at the University of Tennessee was very positive. I was very happy with all the things I have learned and experienced in the US during the 3 months of being an intern.

Quality of the host institution

The University of Tennessee is a big University with approximately 28000 students and 1700 academic staff. The Center for Renewable Carbo is one major research research institution in Tennessee for wood technology and the development of new or improved bioenergy sources, bioproducts, and biomaterials. Another great aspect is, that the CRC is a very international research institution. There are people from all over the world, coming from all kind of

research fields. That is always a good opportunity to share your ideas and discuss them with your work colleagues.

Overall, I would assess my host institution as very professional and well organized. Not just the high academic level but also the people are very welcoming and friendly. I can recommend the Center for Renewable Carbon to everybody who wants to do a research internship in the US.

Contacts within the host institution, inclusion in the organization

tmyoung1@utk.edu

Recommendations for future Marshall Plan students and fellows

Overall, I really enjoyed my time at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Everybody was very friendly and helpful from the beginning till the end. The Professors and researchers supported me with every problem which occurred. Knoxville is a place and very safe place to stay. The only problem is to find a place for living for a short time period as the dormitorys of UT just make contracts for at least half a year. Me and 2 other Marshall Plan scholars have rented a house through the website VRBO. Also it is advisable to buy a car, as public transportation is not very good, except in the centre of Knoxville and on campus. If you are living outside town, a car is definitely needed.

Also it is important to always have your passport and your immigration documents with you when you are travelling next to US border.

Contact information after the research period

julian_hamernik@gmx.net

jhamernik.htw-m2016@fh-salzburg.ac.at