

## **San Diego and UCSD**

San Diego is the second largest city in the state of California and the eighth largest in the United States of America. The city has approximately 1.36 million inhabitants and is located in the southwest of California near the border with Mexico. Because of the pleasant climate San Diego is often referred to by its inhabitants as "America's Finest City". Founded in 1960, the University of California, San Diego is one of the most accomplished research universities in the United States and located in the La Jolla neighborhood of San Diego. The name UCSD is widely recognized for its local importance, national influence and global research. The university is largely decentralized and divided into six colleges and it is the seventh oldest of the 10 University of California campuses. The UCSD offers over 200 undergraduate and graduate degree programs, enrolling about 28,000 undergraduate and 7,000 graduate students. UC San Diego is known for its collaborative, diverse and multidisciplinary ethos that transcends traditional boundaries in the sciences, arts and humanities.

## **Application process and living**

After a successful pledge from Prof. Seshadri, the application process was started. I started applying for the visa at the end of June 2017 and I was very well supported by the UCSD administration office. I immediately received answers for various requests and questions on formalities and paper works. One month before I started my trip to San Diego I also started looking for a host family. Living with a host family will make your study abroad experience more well-rounded, enjoyable, and even life-changing- and you will forever have a home on the other side of the world. Another advantage is that for study programs in big cities, the choice to stay with a host family is usually the most economic one. Apartment options in San Diego will be pricey and won't include meals. I stayed with a host family in Clairemont, which is a community within the city of San Diego. Clairemont isn't a bad place to stay especially when you study at UCSD, because with the bus it takes you about 25 minutes and it's also a very quiet and safe neighborhood. The public transportation system (MTS) in San Diego works very well during working days but it can be kind of frustrating on weekends due to longer waiting times. For longer trips on weekends me and my colleagues always rented cars because it's the easiest and cheapest way to travel.

## **Laboratory facilities at UCSD**

Professor Seshadri is an expert in combustion and he is interested in the chemical inhibition of flames, the combustion of diesel fuels and solid propellants, the mechanisms involved in the formation of pollutants, and the destruction of toxic compounds. The combustion research facilities at UCSD encompasses significant efforts in mathematical theory, numerical analysis and computation, laboratory experimentation and natural observation. Current fundamental studies in combustion involve theory and experimentation on structures of hydrocarbon-air non-premixed flames so-called diffusion flames, including experimental measurements, supercomputer computations with full chemical-kinetic mechanisms and development of asymptotic methods for reduced chemical kinetics. The high-pressure combustion experimental facility was designed to carry out combustion experiments at pressures up to 25 bar and it is currently used to study combustion of high molecular weight hydrocarbon fuels in laminar nonuniform flows. The atmospheric counter flow burner that I was working with is one of a few burners worldwide and the excellent laboratory facilities and the advanced scientific knowledge are among the best in the US. I am very honoured to have been able to complete my master's program at this faculty with a challenging and interesting master's thesis.

## **Resume**

Finally, I can say that I really enjoyed the time in San Diego and studying abroad has made me grow into a more independent person and it completely changed my perspective on life. I'm forever grateful for my abroad experience and the financial support of the Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation. I have gained amazing memories met amazing people, made friends, traveled a lot and had the time of my life. I wouldn't trade my experience for anything. If you have the chance to study abroad, please do because you will not regret it.