

FIELD REPORT



I had the honor to spend the Spring Semester 2017 at Carnegie Mellon University's H. John Heinz III College of Information Systems and Public Policy (Heinz College). It was such an incredible experience for me that I am now thinking about applying for a PhD position at Carnegie Mellon University.

During the first half-semester, I attended the three courses Internet Technologies, Web Application Development, and IT Project Management. The class Internet Technologies was a programming intensive course (mainly in Java) with a focus on the Internet of Things. The course focused especially on protocols such as AJAX and Websockets, different markup languages, and IoT specific technologies. In the class Web Application Development, we designed and developed our own web application thereby focusing especially on the implementation of web programming patterns. The class IT Project Management aimed to give an overview of existing tools and techniques of IT project management and gave us the possibility to slip into the role of a project manager during a larger group project. During the second half-semester, I attended the three courses Consulting Lab, Marketing Digital Media, and Information Security Policy and Management. The class Consulting Lab was a very practical course, in which we got to work with a real client on a real-life case. In particular, we designed and prototyped an app that would make application processes easier for both Master's students and companies. The class Marketing Digital Media discussed how technological changes influence marketing practices and have the potential to disrupt entire industries. Several guest talks from industry experts and lobbyists offered valuable insights into this topic. Finally, the course Information Security Policy and Management focused on the non-technical aspects of information security such as product liability laws, cyber-insurance, data breach notification laws, and regulations about minimum security requirements.

The professors put great effort into the students' success and a lot of work into the materials and the lectures. Furthermore, they all emphasized their open-door policy, meaning that they offered help and personal advice whenever needed. This made it particularly easy to meet the

professors and the researchers and I especially liked that it is common to be on a first name basis with professors. This allows you speak on a way more personal level than it is often the case in most European countries.

The university itself is very well equipped. High-speed internet is available across the entire campus and access to journals, books, and other research materials is granted. Furthermore, they offered a lot of study areas for students equipped with tables, comfortable chairs, electric outlets, lamps, printers etc. Therefore, I spent a considerable amount of time on-campus working on my homework and my research project for the Marshall Plan Foundation.

Furthermore, numerous activities were offered by different student organizations and companies, which facilitated networking and getting to know more people. For example, I got to visit the Google Pittsburgh office, attended the Pittsburgh Social Business Roundtable, attended a Barbeque for students of the Marketing Digital Media class, or got to present one of our student projects in front of a delegation of the Bank of America. I made very helpful acquaintances that gave me valuable input for my research project and my future career plans.

I would highly recommend a research stay (or a semester) abroad at Carnegie Mellon University. The university offers a great variety of different classes and high quality lectures, motivated professors, and a well-equipped campus. I would recommend attending sports classes next to the lectures and to join activities offered by various student organizations to make valuable acquaintances and new friends. Thereby, it doesn't matter whether the student organization is founded by students of a particular class or field, because mostly everybody is welcome and attending activities of other areas helps to broaden one's horizon and to make contacts outside of your usual surrounding.