



**AUSTRIAN
MARSHALL PLAN FOUNDATION**
VIENNA | AUSTRIA

MARSHALL PLAN SCHOLARSHIP FIELD REPORT AFTER STAY

PERSONAL DETAILS

First name	Bernhard	Middle name	-
Last name	Kohlhauser		
Research period at host university, min = 3 full months excl. arrival and departure day			
From (DD.MM.YY)	16.01.2017	To (DD.MM.YY)	23.6.2017

FINAL FIELD REPORT (2 pages)

Please comment on the following topics concerning your stay at the host university:

General impression of your research stay

My research fellowship with Argonne National Laboratory was a very exciting and productive experience. Due to the work with Dr. Erdemir and Dr. Ramirez it was possible for me to find a solution to some of the fundamental problems of my dissertation. The research results produced at Argonne at the same time opened up a lot of new different questions and will influence my Ph.D. thesis considerably.

In general going to work abroad was a very valuable experience, and although the European and American culture seem so close, it was surprising how many differences in the basic way of life have developed.

One of the main take-away messages I have learned in the US, is that Europe should not hide its accomplishments. European Universities have similar premises, the same struggles, the same goal and the same success in their work. The only difference is: that European Universities need to learn public relations and how to promote themselves and their scientist in an global research community.

Quality of the host institution in regard to research opportunity

Argonne is a very multi-layered research institution with a strong background in many different scientific fields. The internal cooperation of experts on many different fields enables researchers easy access to highly qualified outside opinion. Argonne has a "can do" mentality and supports out of the box thinking. People, working at Argonne come from many different cultural and educational backgrounds and truly "live" science.

However, science in a National Laboratory also comes with a big amount of bureaucracy and liability minimization. This leads to long and for a European University-educated researcher unnecessary security and safety trainings as well as to a long run-in time at the beginning of a fellowship. The quite strict budgets also mean that a lot of time equipment you want to use is not available without any company or funding body behind you.

Contact within the host institution, academic opportunity for academic collaboration during stay

The welcome in Argonne is very well organized and structured. New employees, trainees and scientist start their time at Argonne with seminars, tours and trainings. Only after this first initial stage, you are sent to your division and start your work.

From the beginning, a collaboration on some topics of my Ph.D. research was the focus of the fellowship and as already mentioned it worked quite well. Unfortunately, since most of the projects the Argonne scientist of my division were working on were funded by companies the collaboration on other topics was quite limited, as the results were confidential and will never be published.

I especially want to mention and Dr. Thomas Wallner, a researcher from TU Graz originally, who immediately contacted me and helped a lot with tips, overcoming day to day struggles and getting connected in ANL and Chicago in general. He organizes a monthly Austrian meeting in Chicago and together with the WKO Advantage Austria built a strong Austrian community that also includes other Marshall Plan Alumnis.

Recommendations for future Marshall Plan applicants

Generally I want to start with a recommendation to the Marshall Plan foundation to distinguish between scholars on a master and a Ph.D. level. The methods and complexity that working on a dissertation entail often require quite some time until research in a new host institution yields good results. I think it would be beneficial for Ph.D. students to expand the scholarship possibilities to a 1 year stay. Especially in natural and applied science, it takes some time to build an efficient network that allows you access to all the equipment as well as to work efficient.

In case a candidate does not work on a project that is provided by the host institution and brings his own project: I highly recommend to find a local company for collaboration because even if the work is funded in Austria it is quite hard to gain access to equipment and materials in National Laboratories.

Unfortunately, I cannot recommend a fellowship in just any National Laboratory anymore. Due to the political situation in the US many National Laboratories working in sustainability/environmental friendliness/... will by 2018 be suffering from major budget cuts and lay-offs! It looks like at least some parts of ANL will be highly affected.

Contact Email after completion of research stay

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DECLARATION

- I hereby declare that all information provided in the application is to my best knowledge, correct, and complete.
- I acknowledge and agree to the data included in this application being used for statistical purposes and any fotos of official Marshallplan Scholarship events being used for promotion purposes by University of Graz and the Marshall Plan Foundation
- I agree to my name and contact details being passed on to other students interested in Marshall Plan Scholarship:
 yes NO

Date (DD.MM.YYYY)	18.9.2017, Beijing	Signature	
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