

Marshall Plan Scholarship Field Report

Name: Lin Li

Home Institution: Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering,
University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, USA

Host Institution: Fachhochschule Salzburg, Austria

August 28, 2017

It is a great honor for me to receive Marshall Plan Scholarship and get this wonderful chance to become an exchange student in Fachhochschule Salzburg, University of Applied Sciences for the Spring 2017 semester. As a Chinese student who is pursuing Ph.D. degree in the U.S., during my 4-month stay in Salzburg, Austria, I am exposed to different European cultures, especially Austrian culture. What is more, the experience provides me with a good chance to communicate with researchers abroad in the field of technical sciences.

In this report, my overall impression of doing academic research abroad, my personal opinion about the host research institution and the integration with it, and my recommendations for the future MPS scholars/Fellows are summarized as the following.

1 The Overall Impression of the Research Period

The research period starts from February 8th, 2017 and ends on June 8th, 2017. The 4-month stay in Fachhochschule Salzburg is a quite fruitful period for me in terms of the research achievements. On the one hand, in Fachhochschule Salzburg, I have freedom to spend most of my working hours on my continued research in University of Maryland, which allows me to collaborate with the colleagues in our research group and focus on my current research; On the other hand, I am offered a lot of great chances to get involved in the ongoing research and academic events held in the host institution.

In a word, in my opinion, thanks to the flexible and supportive environment of the host institution, during the research period, I have not only been working productively, but also got chances to be exposed to completely different cultures and communicate with academic researchers there in similar areas.

2 Quality of the Research Institution

According to my experience during the research period, my host research institution, the department of ITS (Informationstechnik&System-Management) is very qualified from several aspects.

First of all, ITS provides the students and researchers with highly advanced facilities for both working and teaching, including new computers, monitors, projectors, tools and equipments for software and hardware design, library with various most up to date technical books, and so on. These facilities help a lot increasing the efficiency of both research and study. What impresses me also includes the nice living environment provided by the host institution.

Secondly, I am surprised of the close relationship between the ITS and companies in the same area, which is a huge difference between ITS and my home institution

in University of Maryland. The active collaboration with industry offers the students opportunities to be involved in industrial applications so that they could apply what they have learned to solving some real-world problems and have a better understanding of the knowledge. ITS does an extremely good job in this aspect. One example is that the ITS holds a robot design competition called Robothon every year. Sponsored by various Austrian and international companies, the competition aims at encouraging the students to design robots that could make people's lives better.

Last but not least, during my stay in ITS, the staffs, professors and students are trying their best to let the exchange student be more involved in their department, which I really appreciate. For example, I am invited to their regular breakfast meeting every week, during which everyone will briefly summarize his or her academic updates. It is a good time for me to communicate with other members in ITS. Although most part of the meeting is in German, it still provides much important information about the department.

3 Integration in the Research Institution/Organization

I benefit a lot from the integration with the research institution. The integration includes attending German course provided by the host institution for students with zero German background, attending weekly meetings held in ITS, attending welcome events for the international incoming students, giving an academic presentation on my research, participating the robot competition as a group member of COPADATA company, and so on.

Through the interaction with FHS, I learned a lot about the Austrian culture. And through the interaction with ITS, I obtained valuable comments and suggestions from the researchers in the team on my current research.

4 Recommendations for Future MPS Scholars/Fellows

The MPS program is an academic exchange program between Austria and United States, which mainly focuses on the universities of applied science and technology. It provides excellent opportunities for students who are interested in oversea academic research.

This program helps the participants in paving their way to a research career. Sponsored by the Marshall Plan Foundation, this program provides a generous amount of scholarships to the participants, so that the MPS scholars and fellows can fully devote their time and efforts to researches. Moreover, the participants have the freedom to choose the Universities that best fitting their needs as well as their favorite research topics during the exchange period.

Another benefit of this program is that, it provides opportunities to the participants to enjoy a life abroad. They can enjoy the local cultures and study the local languages during their leisure time. I strongly believe that this program can further enhance the mutual understanding between the scholars of Austria and United States.

From my personal perspective, my research period supported by Marshall Plan Scholarship enlarges my horizon, exposes me to a different culture, and also provides me with great ideas of how to do my own research better.

5 Contact Information after the Research Period

I could be reached by the following information after the agreed stay in fachhochschule Salzburg, Austria:

Email Address: lilinyy09@gmail.com

Address: 2467 A.V. Williams Building,
University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, USA, 20740

Zimbra**tina.gsenger@fh-salzburg.ac.at**

Re: Marshall Plan Scholarship Report Submission

Von : Shuvra Bhattacharyya
<shuvra.s.bhattacharyya@gmail.com>

Do, 31. Aug., 2017 17:58

Betreff : Re: Marshall Plan Scholarship Report Submission

An : Lin Li <lilinyy09@gmail.com>

CC : tina gsenger <tina.gsenger@fh-salzburg.ac.at>,
Johanna Aicher <johanna.aicher@fh-salzburg.ac.at>

Dear Tina,

I am writing to confirm my approval the report, referenced below, that Lin has submitted.

Thanks and Best regards,

--Shuvra

Shuvra S. Bhattacharyya, Professor
Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and
Institute for Advanced Computer Studies
2311 A. V. Williams Bldg.
University of Maryland, College Park MD 20742
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On Aug 31, 2017, at 11:07 AM, Lin Li <lilinyy09@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Tina,

Attached please find my research paper, field report, and a scanned copy of official confirmation or proof of attendance from the host institution / organization.

My research adviser, Professor Bhattacharyya, who is cc'ed in this message, will send the approval of the report to you soon.

Please let me know if I am missing anything or if there is any other paper work that needs to be done.

Thank you very much!

Best Regards,

Lin

Lin Li

Electrical and Computer Engineering

University of Maryland

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<field-report-lin.pdf> <confirmation-of-stay-lin.pdf> <research-report-lin.pdf>

Confirmation of Stay

Family Name: Li

Given Name: Lin

Date of Birth: 19/11/1990

Home Institution: University of Maryland

Coordinator at Home Institution: Shuvra S. Bhattacharyya

Confirmation of arrival:

It is hereby certified that the above mentioned student arrived on:

Day-Month-Year: 08/02/2017

Date, signature and official stamp:

17/05/2017

[Handwritten signature]



Fachhochschule
Salzburg GmbH
Urstein Süd 1
A-5412 Puch/Salzburg

Confirmation of departure:

It is hereby certified that the above mentioned student departed on:

Day-Month-Year: 06/06/2017

Date, signature and official stamp:

17/05/2017

[Handwritten signature]



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