
To the Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation

Graz, July 29, 2019

Field report

To whom it may concern,

My research stay at the State University at Albany within the scholarship from the Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation has broadened my knowledge, experience, and my scientific network.

Most importantly, it was a great opportunity to work with and under supervision of Professor Michael Lesnick. He is one of the world leading experts in the mathematical area of multi-parameter persistence. Hence it was inspiring and fruitful to ask questions, share discussions, thoughts, and approaches. We made good progress on research and opened the door for more research questions. Also, I got to know Professor Marco Varisco, Professor Justin Curry, and his PhD students Robert Cardona, and Jordan DeSha, who all have similar mathematical interests. Besides from that, I visited three conferences in the USA and Canada, which would have been more expensive and complicated without the stay in Albany. I talked to a lot more people from all over the world, and gave a talk on my previous publications at the research colloquium at Albany, and at a conference in Syracuse. Thus, the stay's impact was quite high, and I appreciate the overall experience a lot.

I can recommend going to SUNY at Albany as well. After I arrived, a lot of organizational work was done for me. I got an university ID, had to get health insurance, got allowed to sign up for a meal plan at campus, received a working desk, and got access to the research group's printer. The people in the administration are nice and happy to help with any issues that may arise.

As for future Marshall Plan students and fellows, I would firstly recommend to be well prepared. Especially in terms of research, the opportunity of a research stay abroad should not be underestimated. Working hard before, after and during stay may lead to fruitful research in much shorter time than at home. Secondly, I would recommend to use the stay for additional opportunities as well, such as going to workshops, conferences, or getting to know more people with similar research interests. Finally, future Marshall Plan students and fellows should include a fair amount of fun in their stay, to keep themselves well-balanced, but also to make the stay a great experience.

Sincerely,
René Corbet