

## **Field report of research stay funded by Marshall Plan Scholarship**

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### **General impression of the research stay abroad**

I have thoroughly enjoyed my three months research stay at California Institute of Technology. Besides gorgeous campus and warm weather throughout the stay, I got to experience work in a new lab at the top-ranking physics research institution together with leading scientists and engineers in my field. The skills that I obtained and experiences that I got during the visit will undoubtedly shape my future career path and my way of thinking about science and research. I am looking forward to applying the newly acquired expertise in my day-to-day research back at my home institution and to continue the collaboration with my host institution.

### **Quality of the host institution**

California Institute of Technology is one of the leading research institutions worldwide in physics and related STEM research. The laboratories were excellently equipped, while my colleagues and supervisors were very knowledgeable and supportive of my work, as well as day-to-day issues concerning student life abroad. In addition to wonderful people of Applied Physics department, Caltech also offers plenty of possibilities to learn about other research taking place on campus. This allows for a unique opportunity to explore the cutting-edge research in other fields of physics and engineering and to interact with scientists leading those projects. I especially enjoyed biweekly public lectures offered by members of Jet Propulsion Lab discussing past and current projects relating to space exploration and astronomy.

### **Contacts within the host institution and integration in the organization**

I had a very good impression of the lab and the institution due prompt and supportive nature of communication with administrative assistants and members of the Atwater research group prior

to the start of my stay. Upon arrival I was also very impressed by dynamic and interdisciplinary workflow of the group which was very motivating and encouraging. Moreover, both the head of the lab and my supervisor were very inclusive and invited me to attend various meetings where I had a chance to learn more about work of other laboratories, as well as to expand my professional network. This helped me to established new contacts and find people who were also interested in my research project therefore promoting stronger collaboration between our institutions.

### **Recommendation for the future Marshall Plan students and fellows**

For any student or fellow that is interested in doing a research stay abroad I would without a doubt recommend Marshall Plan Scholarship. It provides generous financial support and great framework for conducting research in USA. My recommendation concerning research is to thoroughly plan for your stay before it starts and to prepare beforehand as much as possible. Regardless of the duration of your stay, the time in a new environment will pass very quickly and often unexpected events might postpone certain parts of the projects. Regarding administrative aspects of the visit, I would recommend starting your visa application as soon as possible since occasionally applications are delayed which might add unnecessary stress before your visit. All-in-all, I recommend being open to new experiences, remaining flexible in the face of unexpected developments while enjoying both scientific and cultural aspects of this very special event in ones career and life.