



University of Natural Resources  
and Life Sciences, Vienna



# Report of stay

**01.09.2021 – 30.11.2021**

Home university: BOKU University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria  
Supervisors: Prof. Johannes Konnerth, Dr. Hendrikus W. G. van Herwijnen

Host University: Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR, USA  
Supervisor: Prof. Kaichang Li

PhD candidate: Elena Averina

Institute of Wood Technology and Renewable Materials  
Department of Material Sciences and Process Engineering  
University of Natural Resources and life Sciences, Vienna

## **General impression of research stay**

The research stay at the Oregon State University was one of the most exciting periods of my PhD project.

Working at the Oregon State University was an enrichment and a valuable experience in my research project. It was a research exchange in many ways: firstly, I learned principals of developing crosslinking agent structure, new chemical crosslinking techniques, methods for bonding performance evaluation were gained and will be further conducted at the facilities at the Institute of Wood Technology and Renewable Materials. Furthermore, a bridge was built between the groups of Kaichang Li and our institute for further discussions and knowledge exchange. Additionally, we transferred our knowledge on protein pretreatment to Oregon State University and showed the group focused on soy protein the potential of different plant protein sources. We are convinced that the gained knowledge and expertise will further optimize the quality and outcome of the applied experiments at our research institute. The research stay represents a perfect example of the importance and possible progress made during a short-term scientific missions to transfer or rather interchange scientific knowledge and information in a non-competing scientific field. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn from a different research lab novel experimental approaches and get as well insights into the differences in research attempts and PhD structures depending on the university and country.

## **Standard of host institution**

Oregon State University is in the top 1% university in the world. It is an international public research university that draws people from all 50 states and more than 100 countries. It is a great opportunity to experience high-quality education standards and university culture in such a legendary place.

The University is diverse and welcoming. Exchange students have great support from the international service. They also have an opportunity to participate in weekly networking events and excursions organized by INTO OSU (International Living-Learning Center) – a service for students from other countries at OSU, which also provides academic preparation, English language training, admissions, recruiting and student services for international students at OSU.

The sport life of the University is also one of the most important aspects of a student's life at OSU. The University famous soccer team The Oregon State Beavers and offers over 40 sports clubs

Furthermore, the Oregon State University comprises one of the largest land territories in the country and includes 2 campuses, 11 colleges, 12 experiment stations. It is located in Corvallis, OR, which is only around 1 hour-drive from spectacular Oregon coast on one side and mountains on the other side. It is also surrounded by a number of national parks and forests, which explains a very developed outdoor culture and variety of outdoor sports activities.

## Contact

Office of International Services  
1600 SW Western Blvd  
Suite 130  
1-541-737-6310

The INTO OSU offices  
Street address: 1701 SW Western Boulevard, Corvallis, OR 97333 Phone: 541-737-2464  
Email: [INTOOSU@oregonstate.edu](mailto:INTOOSU@oregonstate.edu)  
Campus mail: ILLC Welcome Desk

Asst. Director for Int'l Employee & Exchange Visitor Services  
Jennifer Doreen  
[jennifer.doreen@oregonstate.edu](mailto:jennifer.doreen@oregonstate.edu)  
International Services  
Oregon State University  
541-737-6468