

Field Report

General Impression

Overall, I would say that I enjoyed my time in the United States. I managed to accomplish quite a bit of sightseeing and was able to explore Pennsylvania as well as some neighboring states. Some of my most memorable trips were New York City, Presque Isle state park in Erie and Toronto. I also really liked the campus life at the college, I made some great friends and got to experience and be a part of some of the many clubs they offered for students such as the astronomy club, the outing club, and the clay club.

I believe I learnt a lot about doing research in the laboratory and have improved my skills for working in the lab. I am very grateful for all the guidance Dr. Phillip Persichini gave me and am extremely thankful to have had this opportunity to work in his research group at Allegheny College.

Host Institution

Allegheny College is a small liberal arts college with a student population of 1800 students. They have a chemistry department that has been ranked in the top 5% among private undergraduate institutions in production of eventual Ph.Ds. and being a student of applied chemistry, I found that very engaging. I particularly liked the close student-faculty contact.

I worked in the research group of Dr. Phillip Persichini. The work in the Persichini group is centred around synthetic organic chemistry with a focus on organoboron chemistry and method development. The latest research the group has been interested in consists of the synthesis of specific organoboron heterocycles (benzoboroxoles) for the molecular recognition of sugars and eventually more complex carbohydrates such as heparin. My project focused on the functionalization of organoboron compounds for use as surface hosts for carbohydrate recognition.

Contacts within the institution

My supervisor Dr. Phillip Persichini was extremely helpful and very friendly. He would always answer any questions I had and explain everything to make sure I really understood the work. The other members of the research group were all very nice as well and would help me if I had any questions. We would have group meeting every other week to present our work and this improved my presenting skills and ensured I really understood the work I was doing.

Personal Recommendation

I really recommend doing an internship at Allegheny College because you have the opportunity to learn a lot and gain a significant amount of practical experience in the laboratory.

The international office at Allegheny College is very helpful with all the documentation and paperwork required for your visa. I would suggest applying for a visa as early as possible as it does take some time to obtain one.