

Master Thesis: Development of Healthcare Information Gathering Strategies through the Gamification of Questionnaires utilizing a Smartphone Application

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Supervisor at home University: Dipl. Ing. Michael Reiner

Field Report:

Ever since hearing about the Marshall Plan Scholarship, I knew I wanted to try my best and become a recipient at the end of my master's program at the Carinthia University of Applied Sciences. The news of receiving the scholarship and being able to conduct research at the University of California, Irvine were amazing.

After my initial start at the University of California, Irvine had to be postponed from February to June due to delays in the Visa process because of covid-19 restrictions, I did arrive in California on June 2nd, 2021. As California and the University also had covid-19 related restrictions, I started my project from home office. Throughout weekly meetings with my supervisor Sean Young, I was able to conduct research and work on the Crowdhealth app. Each month we held a meeting with both of my supervisors to discuss achievements, problems and possible solutions. Since the university other than expected did not resume on campus work in the fall, I decided to continue my work remotely from Austria in September. We continued our weekly and monthly Zoom meetings. In December the first test run of the Crowdhealth app started and I was able to collect and analyze the information from the app.

Although I was not able to attend the University Campus my stay in California enabled me to experience the American and California culture while living with a host family.

My research at the University of California was only possible because of the Marshall Plan Scholarship and I am grateful for the opportunity and experience that I gained because of it. I encourage anyone who is considering applying to do so and use the chance of conducting research at a university in the United States and experience living in the US.