

# FIELD REPORT MARSHALL PLAN SCHOLARSHIP STAY

**Marshall Plan Scholarship Recipient:** Vera Truttmann

**Host Institution:** Kansas State University (Manhattan, KS, USA)

## 1 General impression of the research stay abroad

My research state at the Kansas State University (Manhattan, KS) has truly been a great experience for me. I enjoyed being a part of K-State – even if it was just for a short period of time. The people I got in contact with, no matter if at the university or just from around town, were always really welcoming, which made adjusting to the new surroundings really easy.

Manhattan (also known as ‘The Little Apple’) is city in the north-eastern part of Kansas. It has a lively downtown with several restaurants, bars and cafés. Besides, there are also a number of parks and natural areas to do sports or relax and several options for shopping. As for probably most smaller towns in the United States, getting around is most convenient by car, even though it is not absolutely necessary within the city. Nevertheless, for visiting some of the cities are natural areas around, a car would be required.

## 2 Quality of the host institution

Kansas State University has been founded in 1863 and its main campus is directly located in the city center of Manhattan. The campus itself features a number of limestone buildings for the different institutes and general facilities, as well as a generous amount of park-like areas, which creates a very friendly and open atmosphere. The campus includes a students union with a food court, a museum and auditorium, as well as a number of sports facilities and a stadiums to watch the local Wildcats team play. The International Students Center is also an important institution for Marshall Plan Sholarship Fellows at K-State.

Regarding the equipment at the chemistry department, everything needed to conduct the research outlined in my proposal was available. The whole department is very international and a number of different topics and research areas in chemistry are represented.

## 3 Contacts within the host institution & inclusion in the organization

Both my supervisor at the host university, as well as my colleagues in the research group made sure I always felt included and showed me around in the beginning. They also always had an open ear for me when I had a question or wanted to discuss something. I am still in regular contact with member of the group and hope to meet some of them again at a conference later this year. The chemistry department also holds a weekly departmental seminar where you have the chance to get in touch with other research groups.

Together with another group, my host research group also organized a number of social events, such as visiting a Pumpkin Patch before Halloween, a group hike in the nearby prairie, group lunches/dinners or a Christmas Party. This made it easy to get in contact with my colleagues also outside of the office.

The International Student Center is also organizing various events, ranging from orientation

events to food festivals and social gatherings. Participation is usually for free.

#### **4 Recommendations for future Marshall Plan students and fellows**

I can fully recommend a research stay at Kansas State University. The university is very modern and you will certainly find things to do all the time. Moreover, Manhattan is a really nice and also safe place. I would probably recommend a stay in spring or fall since it can be really hot during summer and really cold in the winter. Also, while apartment costs are usually not that high compared to most cities in Austria, finding a place to stay for periods shorter than a whole year can become a challenge in Manhattan. Because of that, I would recommend to start looking for an accommodation early on. Moreover, if you are there for a longer time and/or you are not staying close to campus, it might be a useful to get a car. This would also allow you to visit some cities and places nearby, which I can definitely recommend doing. Even though Kansas might not be the most well-known state in the USA, it is definitely worth a visit!