

Field Report

General Impression

When I arrived at Allegheny College, I was impressed by how much an American college differs from Austrian universities and I am happy that I had the opportunity to experience attending one for one semester. Allegheny college offers a variety of clubs and organizations and I joined several of them to try out something typical "American" like cheerleading or to improve my volleyball skills. I was also able to do quite a bit of sightseeing as well. I explored many parts of Pennsylvania like Pittsburgh and Erie as well as some cities in neighboring states like New York City, Toronto, and Columbus.

I am convinced that I improved my handling skills in the lab a lot and learnt how to work more independently as well. Dr. Phillip Persichini was an amazing supervisor, and I am thankful for all the advice and knowledge I received from him while working in his research group at Allegheny College.

Host Institution

Allegheny College is a small liberal arts college that stands out for its internationality as from the 1,800 students which attend the college, 47 states and 70 countries are represented. Furthermore, the graduation rate is at 75%. The college also asks their students to choose both, a major and a minor. That way a scientist, who can present his results in an engaging way will be more successful in his future career.

My lab at Allegheny college is called Hellman Laboratory. The work in this lab is focused on organic chemistry with a focus on method development. The latest research the Persichini group has been about 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 synthesis of these benzoboroxoles. I synthesized several derivatives and compared sensed sugar interactions.

Contacts within the institution

My supervisor Dr. Phillip Persichini was extremely helpful and supportive. Whenever something was unclear, I did not have to hesitate to ask him, and he would comprehensively explain everything to me.

We had group meetings every other week to present our work and discuss any questions. Doing so was a great practice for my upcoming bachelor's exam.

Personal Recommendation

Overall, I would say that I enjoyed my time in the United States. I have gained lots of memorable experiences and can recommend all fellow students to do their internship at Allegheny college because you learn so many things like improving your laboratory techniques.

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