

Field Report of Maximilian Winzely

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The aim of this field report is to write about my exchange stay at the University of California, Los Angeles where I worked under the supervision of Professor Carlos Morales-Guio. My exchange stay was very different compared to others since my whole 8 months in California were accompanied by the COVID-19 pandemic.

General impression of your research stay abroad

Although my research stay was influenced strongly by the restrictions to slow down the spread of the corona virus, my overall experience was great. It took longer to meet new people and make new friends but therefore these relationships were more intimate. Furthermore, I loved the great cultural diversity at the campus which made it possible for me to learn not only about the American lifestyle.

Quality of the host institution

In normal operation, the university has a very large offer of sports and also leisure activities which I unfortunately could not use because of the pandemic. The campus was clearly not comparable to the ones I was used to of any European university and only by exploring it one could imagine how incredibly exciting campus life would normally be. But even now in the time of social distancing the university tried to make the life of an exchange student not too lonely by offering many different online events

Another thing worth mentioning was the very strict observance of the restriction due to the corona virus at the campus where every single person had kept very strictly to the mask obligation.

Contacts within the host institution, inclusion in the organization

My supervisor and also the administrative staff was very welcoming and also helpful with answering every question I had. Furthermore, cooperation with other laboratories of the same institute were very easy going and also using their equipment never became a problem.

Recommendations for future Marshall Plan students and fellows

In the end I can just recommend everyone to consider an exchange semester at the UCLA. Even though my stay was accompanied by the pandemic I had one of the best times in my life. I am

sure that I have learned many important things for my future research and life and living in a city like Los Angeles has certainly broadened my horizons.

And one thing I would like to add is that besides the lab work, you should definitely take time to travel as much as possible to get the most out of your exchange semester.