



MARSHALL PLAN SCHOLARSHIP FIELD REPORT AFTER STAY

PERSONAL DETAILS

First name	Lynn	Middle name	Johanna
Last name	Baufeld		
Research period at University of California Los Angeles			
From (DD.MM.YY)	21.09.15	To (DD.MM.YY)	31.03.16

FINAL FIELD REPORT (2 pages)

Please comment on the following topics concerning your stay at the University of California Los Angeles:

General impression of your research stay at UCLA

I spend 6 months in the Human Genetics Department (Karen Reue's Lab) at UCLA. My stay as a Graduate Visiting Scholar was focused on conducting research for my master's thesis for the "Biochemistry and molecular Biomedicine" program at the University of Graz. My overall impression was very positive. Getting the position worked out well with sending out applications and meeting some lab PIs for interviews. Everyone I met was very helpful and fully engaged in their work.

The organizational part of my stay worked well without any major complications. The office for foreign students was helping me get all my paperwork for my visa done. A good amount of self effort and organization is still needed and important though to find out what forms you need and where to get them. UCLA is an awesome university that is extremely diverse in its students as well as in everything it offers. It was surprising to me how well labs and facilities on campus work together, cooperate on research projects and offer services on site that make life in the lab easier. It was a good time getting to know all my coworkers in the lab. I really appreciated the very open communication and interaction culture. Discussing experiments, troubleshooting problems, helping each other with protocols and sharing experiences were things I encountered repeatedly.

Quality of the host institution in regard to research opportunity

The amount of different departments, institutes and labs doing some kind of biological science research is overwhelming. Depending on the lab the funding situation might be different. Karen Reue manages to have good funding to facilitate the conduction of most desired experiments. The lab is well equipped which makes research more efficient. The lab equipment is well maintained and all the common machines are on site. The facilities are quite spacious so I barely ever collided with someone else's schedule.

Being part of institute and project meetings and our weekly lab meeting was always interesting and I was able to learn a lot. Due to the university's location and recognition there are many talks and presentations given by top notch scientists from a wide range of research fields.

Contact within the host institution, academic opportunity for academic collaboration during stay

Due to the length of my stay I did not really have the time to collaborate with other labs a lot. From what I know about ongoing projects in the lab though collaborations with other scientists are highly enforced. Having all the research labs as well as the medical facilities located on campus makes it easier to get a specialist's opinion on something, share materials or use someone else's equipment.

Recommendations for future Marshall Plan applicants

My advice is to start early enough. Find your institution/lab you want to join first and secure your position with them. Make sure to inform yourself about all the regulations and rules that come with a stay abroad at your home university so everything will be accepted and recognized upon completion. Apply for scholarships early enough to have a source of funding which is usually required for obtaining a visa. The Marshall Plan application process is quite straightforward. Show your passion about the opportunity the scholarship gives you and let them know why you want to go to another lab and how it fits in with you education and experience so far.

Contact Email after completion of research stay

DECLARATION

- 4 I hereby declare that all information provided in the application is to my best knowledge, correct, and complete.
- 4 I acknowledge and agree to the data included in this application being used for statistical purposes by University of Graz and the Marshall Plan Foundation