

Staying in a foreign country to do research is a high privilege, especially in a diverse and academically rich country such as the United States of America. The institution I visited was the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), a State University focused on Engineering and other topics such as Computational Science. The atmosphere on campus can be described as determined in the student and research body, fitting to the high standard the University is setting for itself. Consequently, the campus is equipped with a powerful computer cluster and a multitude of well-equipped laboratories besides other amenities of student life such as an generous foodcourt, a large library and a sports complex. The high aspirations are also seen in the way the organization treats its students, even providing a free to ride shuttle service to areas with high student populations. To that effect, the New Jersey Institute of Technology can definitely be recommended and regarded as an excellent lyceum for undergraduate-, graduate-, and post-graduate students.

During my stay, I was working in the research group of Dr. Gennady Gor, who is focusing on computational modelling of gas-sorption processes with a particular focus on adsorption induced deformation of nanoporous solids. Therefore, this young group represented a unique opportunity for me to approach the effects of my experimental work on the topic of adsorption induced deformation from a theoretical viewpoint. Because the computer laboratory was just established and the group only consisted of two PhD students, the supervisor Dr. Gor and me, the computer-codes for the simulations planned in my application were not yet fully developed and implemented. Therefore, in agreement with my PhD supervisor Prof. Paris and Dr. Gor, I decided to go for a more analytical approach in my research under the guidance of Dr. Gor. I investigated several approaches to tackle the problems at hand, learning a lot about the theory of sorption, and I developed a basic analytical model for capillary condensation in the complex geometry of the porous space between cylindrical rods. Extending this work to the description of the adsorption induced deformation was unfortunately not possible so far because of the extensive nature of fundamental work in this field.

Upon arrival, inclusion in the organization of NJIT was swift and very effective, because of the professionalism of the organizational staff who was very keen to help with any problem. Generally, everyone is very eager to welcome new students and provide any information requested, be it the closest medical doctor, the bus schedule, or provide help with finding housing. Further than that, there are also a lot of activities to attend, such as weekly organized scientific talks from experts in academia and industry.

If I were to visit for the first time, the recommendations I would have desired and which might be of some value for future students and fellows visiting NJIT are the following:

- When going to NJIT as a student, try to get on-campus housing. Living off the campus can be very expensive because of the relative proximity to New York and even though the public transport system is extensive, any ride not provided by the University is pricey.
- Even though every credit at the university is also very expensive, you can take part in non-degree certifications. These are relatively cheap compared to Europe and are taught by top level experts. If you don't find time and money to get certifications, you still have good chances to meet people who are distinguished in their fields and get to know new viewpoints and ideas in the weekly seminars held at the university.
- If you go there to do research, you will discover quite some differences as compared to Europe. Research groups are typically relatively small. Also, many PhD students are very busy with course work, or teaching in an assistant role.

In conclusion, I can only recommend the New Jersey Institute of Technology for studying or conducting research abroad.