



Marshallplan-Jubiläumsstiftung  
Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation



## **Marshall Plan Field Report**

Research stay at the Bioseparations Engineering Laboratory of Professor Giorgio Carta at the  
University of Virginia (3<sup>rd</sup> April – 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017)

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### **General impression of stay abroad:**

I am really satisfied with my stay abroad. Despite the initial extensive bureaucratic process to acquire all the documents to be able to travel to and stay in USA, in the end, the experience was totally worth it. I was able to learn new scientific topics and techniques in the laboratory and also grow as a person. I participated in courses, seminars and international scientific conferences. I had the opportunity to have direct contact with the American people and culture. Moreover, thanks to the cooking classes of the International Center of the University of Virginia, I had the chance to learn about several other cultures and meet amazing people.

### **Quality of the host institution:**

In general, the University of Virginia has very high quality with excellent infrastructures (including dining areas, gymnasiums, swimming pools, outdoor sports fields, libraries, etc.) and services (bus service, international center activities, etc.). In the Department of Chemical Engineering everyone was very helpful and I always had someone available to help me. More specifically, the laboratory of Professor Giorgio Carta is very well equipped and the entire team has high quality knowledge and numerous skills.

**Contacts in the host institution, inclusion in the organization:**

First of all, the direct contact with Professor Giorgio Carta was essential. Moreover, at the beginning, even before travelling to USA, the help of Mrs. Vickie Faulconer (Administrative Assistant to the Chair, School of Engineering and Applied Science) and several persons from the International Studies Office (<http://iso.virginia.edu>) was extremely effective, especially regarding to all the necessary paperwork.

I always felt included in the scientific and non-scientific activities promoted by the students or faculties of Department of Chemical Engineering. Additionally, the UVa International Center (<https://internationalcenter.virginia.edu>) promotes several different activities which are frequented by students and other members of the UVa community from all over the world.

**Recommendations for future Marshall Plan students and fellows:**

There are a few important things to take care with some time in advance. Make sure you have a good contact with you host institution through you supervisor. Take care of the paper work in advance (about 3 months before travelling) because delays can happen and not always everything is straightforward. In USA the public transports might be rare or non-existing, make sure you find a place to stay close to the university and grocery store (I used a bike every day to go to work). Search for activities in international centers or student organizations, there you have the chance to meet a lot of people, do interesting things and visit new places.

Use your time abroad to work on you project, learn as much as you can from the people surrounding you. Also visit new places and meet new cultures.