

Field Report

Marshall Plan Scholarship

University of California, San Francisco

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1. General Impression

The University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) is a leading university dedicated to promoting health worldwide through advanced biomedical research. The university is entirely dedicated to health sciences and is a major center of medical and biological research and teaching, and is ranked as one of the top universities in the biomedical field in the country and around the world. My lab was located in the new Mission Bay campus, however traveling between different campuses is very common and necessary at UCSF. For doing that, a free shuttle can be used. Working time is very flexible and results-oriented, however since people are very passionate about their research, long days and overtime are commonplace.

In general, San Francisco is a modern, vibrant and beautiful city. People are used to Europeans and Foreigners and most of the official places like banks or registration offices are well trained for international issues.

2. Quality of the Host Institution in Regard to Research Opportunity

University of California, San Francisco is one of the best medical research institutes worldwide. Fruitful discussions during lunch break but also interesting conferences and talks are possible on a daily basis. There are many collaborations between UCSF and other research institutes f.e. Gladstones, Berkeley, SFSU etc., which can easily be used for own research purposes. During my time, I only had contact with other grad students and postdocs.

Mission bay campus is a research institute, therefore no undergraduate students are present most of the time.

3. Contact within the Host Institution, Academic Opportunity for Academic Collaboration during Stay

During my stay, I was part of the Surgical Innovations Group, which is an initiative of the Department of Surgery in partnership with the Department of Bioengineering and Therapeutic Sciences to identify, mentor, and facilitate the translation of novel medical technologies into transformative new devices and treatments to improve human health. I was attending meetings, talks and and I was also able to present my research to leading scientists within this field, that allowed me to get not just useful feedback and ideas for my masters thesis but also to gain presenting experience in front of an international audience. My research was supervised by both heads of Surgical and Bioengineering departments, that helped me to get in contact with a lot of engineers and scientists at UCSF and UC Berkeley. Also all my colleagues were interested in future collaboration and there is a good networking beside an , which is one of the major accomplishment, that I have achieved during my stay.

4. Recommendations for Future Marshall Plan Applicants

San Francisco has become one of the world's most expensive places to live. Unfortunately, even with a generous grant provided by the Marshall Plan Foundation, only about 50 percent of my living costs were covered. If you would like to see more than just your lab, you will definitely need an additional financial support or savings.