

Marshall Plan Field Report

Michael Wurmshuber

Home University: Montanuniversität Leoben

Host University: University of California, Berkeley

Stay Period: 14th August 2017 – 14th December 2017

My research stay at UC Berkeley was an amazing experience both in- and outside the lab. While the research I conducted at the Department of Nuclear Engineering showed fruitful results and helped me improve my abilities in the field of academic work and research, living in the United States for four months was a great opportunity to broaden my cultural horizon as well as to refine my English language skills.

To perform my work at the University of California in Berkeley was a well-fitting choice, not only due to the excellent contacts and previous cooperations with my home university, but also because of the outstanding expertise of handling material irradiation and testing irradiated materials in Professor Hosemann's Nuclear Materials Group. Additional assets of Berkeley are the availability of unique research facilities and the excellent connection to Los Alamos National Laboratory, which gave me the opportunity to work in a state-of-the-art scientific environment.

I received a warm welcome at the Department of Nuclear Engineering by technical and academic staff as well as graduate students. The working environment was a very friendly one and the discussions in the office were always helpful and much appreciated. I was well included into the community through various after-work and weekend activities with other students and co-workers. Altogether, the warm atmosphere at and outside the office made Berkeley feel like a (short-term) second home to me.

I would highly recommend other students to take the opportunity of a Marshall Plan Scholarship to perform scientific work at a US institution. Working on cutting-edge research in such a professional environment in a different country is a truly great and satisfying experience. Additionally, one gets to know a different culture and see new parts of the world.