

Field report in the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU)
Funded by Marshall Scholarship Plan
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Thanks to the Marshall Scholarship Plan, I was able to have the wonderful study abroad experience in the beautiful city Vienna. This 3.5 months' experience is unforgettable. I wished to be in Europe as a child but had never got a chance to do so. This study abroad program made my dream come true and made it even better. Though it was not a full semester, I could actually live there for a few months to feel the culture and see the people. Vienna is absolutely a beautiful city and I wished I had explored it more. It has the most advanced public transportation system I have ever seen. My general impression on this study or research abroad experience is just wonderful.

As for the quality of the host institution BOKU, I am not sure about the other labs or departments or other universities. But for the food science biosensor lab where I was working in, I truly believed it was of high quality. The labs were operated differently from the labs I saw in the US or in China. It operated more like a company: three labs were connected together and were well managed. Dr. Roland Ludwig, the professor hosted me in BOKU, was very kind and knowledgeable in biosensor. The MS and PhD students there have the enthusiasm for the projects they are doing, which are not that common nowadays.

For the contacts in the host institution, I want to thank Andre Hackelberg for all his help. He helped me by sending all the information by email even before I went to Austria. He was so nice helping me get the scholarship ready and gave me many good advices. And Dr. Roland Ludwig, he was so patient explaining the project to me and guiding me through the experiments.

For the future marshall plan students and fellows, I would recommend studying a little German before going to Austria. Though you can live well speaking English, German is still the official language there. Another thing you need to be aware of is the old winter there. Bring more clothes and be ready for the freezing weather if you are going to be there early spring.

Overall, I enjoyed the research and the life there in Vienna for the three months. I am really grateful for this opportunity offered by Marshall plan and I appreciate all the help received by Dr. Ludwig and Andre.