

Internship Field Report

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Home University and program	UAS Salzburg MSc in Forest Products Technology & Management
Host University	Oregon State University (USA)
Research Project	Advanced Manufacturing Techniques and Technologies in the Oregon Forest Cluster

First of all, I would like to say, that this three-month stay abroad was a memorable time with unforgettable impressions. I have learned a lot during my research internship at Oregon State University, not only about my research topic but also about the American culture and their way of living and enjoying life. I was impressed by their openness and kindness and I am already missing this here in Austria/Germany. My advisors and colleagues were very friendly and helpful and have included me from the first day on, so I had no problems settling in.

The research topic was not an easy one for me as it involved many methods which were new to me. But I could always count on my advisors if I had problems and in general the whole OSU community supported me. I also had the chance to participate in several private and organized tours of the university and its various laboratories and facilities, which was really impressive and showed me that they are well equipped and with good reasons one of the best universities in the world for Forestry and Wood Science.

Although I was not a part of the REEU group (as I did this internship during my Masters) the university offered me to participate in their weekly meetings, where the REEU students presented their research progresses, and also in their leisure activities. My social contacts were mainly limited to the people I got to know in the building where I had my office. But there were a lot of students working there during summer, which surprised me, so I got a lot of new friends very quickly. It was also nice to experience so many different cultures in one place since there were a lot of international students in Graduate School.

I can only recommend a stay at OSU, may it be an internship or a whole semester abroad. The people are super-friendly, the weather in summer is heavenly (always warm and sunny, not a single raindrop from July until September), and the landscape is gorgeous (everything from coast to mountains to desert).