

Field Report

General impression of my research stay abroad:

The research stay abroad helped me to experience working on a new research project with new professors on a different University in a different language. Furthermore, it showed me some differences between a small university like Carinthia University of applied sciences (CUAS) and San Diego State University (SDSU). I had a lot more independence on the progress of the project, but it also seems that professors cannot offer the same amount of time for students like at CUAS.

Another difference would be the sport, cultural and free time offer a University like SDSU and the city San Diego can provide for the students. In addition, of the huge amount of people at SDSU and San Diego in general the different offers are better accepted and visited. The overall impression of the partner University (SDSU) and the research project was excellent.

Quality of the host institution & Contacts within the host institution:

I was impressed with the host institution (SDSU) in general. They helped me a lot with all the bureaucracy work. I had to do at first, especially Ms. Young and Ms. Oleary from the Department of Geography administration.

Dr. Piotr Jankowski supported and supervised me at campus with the progress of my project. He also introduced me to the whole Department of Geography (professors, employees) step by step. Mr. Dave McKinsey was my contact for the used Hadoop-cluster. He is responsible for service, updates and all other necessary work around the Hadoop-cluster. I will have contact him from time to time because of the Hadoop-cluster and he is always helpful.

Recommendations for future Marshall Plan students and fellows:

I think it could help to promote this program more and try to increase the applications for the offered places. All engineering students in Austria should know that there is an affordable way to experience a research stay abroad for the Bachelor- or Master-thesis.