

Field report

In spring 2018, I was a visiting scholar at the Institute of European Studies at the University of California, Berkeley (Cal). While my time abroad, I mainly wrote and worked on two projects for my PhD-dissertation. Cal's Professors and students, in particular, those of the Institute of Civil and Environmental Engineering, significantly support me in my work. A key objective of my research stay was to publish my work together with scholars of Cal. During my visit to UC Berkeley, I wrote two papers in collaboration with UC Berkeley scientists. The article "Innovative pricing policies for commuting: a field experiment" was accepted for the Elsevier Book Chapter of the 15TH International Conference on Travel Behavior Research (IATBR) 2018. During my stay in the USA, I presented my results at this conference. The paper "Parking policy evaluation based on participatory sensing data from apps: the future?" was presented by me in June 2018 at the annual conference of the International Transportation Economics Association (ITEA) in Hong Kong.

Berkeley is home of the University of California, Berkeley. The city is located at the east shore of San Francisco, Bay. The rather small town offers many excellent restaurants and cafes. Due to the university with around 43,000 students, the city is very young and brisk. One disadvantage of Berkeley is its high living costs. Rents for a single room are between \$1,000 and \$1,500 per month. The high living costs are why I also have decided to live in Richmond – the city north to Berkeley. Richmond has a higher crime rate than Berkeley. It was ranked the 12th most dangerous city in America. The high crime rate is, however, also the reason why rents are way lower compared to Berkeley. The Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), a train, connects Richmond to Berkeley (and also San Francisco). Using the train is easy and fast. For using the train, a Clipper card is necessary, which the most train stations sell.

The University of California, Berkeley offers its students a lot. The historic campus is very green and most buildings have great architecture. I often used the parks on the campus to read literature or work outside. Whenever I had a long call, I did it by a walk through the college. Even though I have not used the libraries a lot, my colleagues did. Berkeley offers many resources for literature research. I could access more major and minor journals than in my home university. Berkeley also provides a great sports center. Visiting students have to pay fees of \$ 1,500. Those fees were somewhat surprising for me, as they were not communicated to me before. Berkeley increased their visiting fees from \$500 to \$750. Additionally, I had to pay \$750 for the student ID. The process to get the student id took two weeks longer than expected, as the administration of Cal confused my status.

My home institution was the Institute of European Studies. They provided me office space and supported me in all administrative tasks. I got my key to my office on the first day. They were also accommodating in assisting me in finding accommodation, registering at the university and sports center. Even though I had a different research background than my host institute, they invited me to events and talks. Those were highly interesting and gave me the opportunity to look beyond my research area. I have also been in close contact with other visiting scholars, who all worked on

different topics. The intercultural and interdisciplinary exchange with scholars and my home institute have thought me personally, culturally and workwise. Even though the issues may be various, the challenges often stay the same among disciplines.

Workwise I closely collaborated with the Institute of Civil and Environmental Engineering. The two professors I worked together with, were highly interested in my topic and supported me with great comments, suggestions, and questions. They also invited me to visit their classes, participate in meeting with their Ph.D. students and introduced me to other scholars. Professors and scholars wrote my manuscripts and presentations and commented on them. Overall, it was a great exchange in both directions.

I can recommend future Marshall Plan students to contact potential collaborators early and plan their stay well. The time at Berkeley can be used highly effective, and visitors can profit a lot. Visitors should think about time constraints of Professors, so meetings with them should be planned 2-4 weeks in advance. Especially in the beginning, it is important to meet as many people as possible and get yourself familiarized with the work of scholars. Most of all, enjoy your time!