

### **General impression of your research stay abroad**

The internship at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee provided unique practical experience. In addition, I have been able to improve my English proficiency considerable during the six-months. Beyond that, it enabled me to establish both new friendships and a professional network. Also, I became acquainted with different cultures from all over the world which offered me a global perspective.

Obviously, most of the time I spend working on the research topic. In my leisure time I explored Milwaukee and other neighboring cities. This provided many opportunities to get in touch and have some brief conversations with locals.

### **Quality of the host institution**

The quality of the host institution was consistently high and sometimes even exceeded my expectations. During the first two weeks the university organized and hosted several welcoming events. For example, this included campus tours but also free transportation and entry to the art museum in Milwaukee or a free concert for all students and scholars. Within those two weeks I met many people who turned into friends during the stay.

In terms of knowledge and research I would also rate the quality of the host institution high. Professors and researches were always more than happy to share their knowledge when asked to.

The entire stay I lived in an official university residence hall. There I had to share the kitchen and bathroom with two other students, but I had a private bedroom. The rooms were clean, and all appliances were in a good shape. Also, a free shuttle to campus was provided for free.

### **Contacts within the host institution, inclusion in the organization**

Prior the internship I had regular contact with my supervisor. Despite the time difference, all my questions have been answered promptly.

When arriving at the host institutions, my supervisor was not present due to a conference abroad, but I was welcomed by another member of the staff. First, we had a short tour through the campus and I was offered assistance for all the administrative procedures.

At work I was welcomed with joy by all the co-workers and I felt accepted and included immediately. During my stay I established friendships with several co-workers and always enjoyed having some brief chats with them.

As a visiting scholar I had access to the university library and some other facilities. However, the status of a visiting scholar has one drawback. The university offers several sports classes and outdoor trips exclusively for students. Being a scholar, I would have needed to pay a significant amount of money to participate.

### **Recommendations for future Marshall Plan students and fellows**

I recommend future fellows to precisely plan their arrival in advance. If possible, it makes sense to arrive one or two weeks prior start of the semester/work. This time can be used to get familiar with the new surroundings and often universities organize welcoming events during this time.

Getting to the accommodation from the airport can be challenging due to a lack of public transport. Download important information and maps prior arrival and do not expect to have free Wi-Fi everywhere.

Whenever possible and affordable, students should aim for a room in an official university residence hall. These rooms are mostly in a safe neighborhood close to campus and known to be clean and maintained. In addition, they provide a good opportunity to get in touch with other students.

My final recommendation is to open a bank account and sign up for a cellphone plan at the destination. Usually, when paying with a foreign credit card, additional fees will be added. Having a domestic bank account eliminates those fees.