

# Field Report

## Home Institution

University of Applied Sciences, Upper Austria  
Stelzhamerstraße 23  
4600 Wels, Austria

## Host Institution

Center for Advanced Power Systems, Florida State University  
2000 Levy St  
Tallahassee, 32310 FL, USA

## General impression of the research stay abroad

All in all, it was a wonderful and exciting experience that I wouldn't want to miss. I can warmly recommend it to get an impression of the research facilities and at the same time improve one's English skills. I found the quality, dynamics and characteristics of the research and discussion culture extremely impressive. I was able to make a lot of professional contacts and close friendships, learned a lot about the local culture and gained a different perspective on our own culture.

After the relatively uncomplicated check-in at the University's International Office and afterwards at the research institute, I received an access card and a student ID. My supervisor provided me with a bicycle for the duration of my stay. Public transportation is available through city and campus buses, the latter can be used free of charge by everybody and city buses are free with a university ID.

Until my university IT account was established after a few days, I started my stay with literature research on my topic and meetings to better assess the current situation. Since the research stay does not include any courses or seminars in the regular study program, I was able to concentrate fully on work and didn't have to commute between campus and institute.

## Quality of the host institution

I was very impressed by the laboratory equipment, software and research funds available. The institution I visited was in close contact with the US Navy, and therefore had additional funding through research grants, but also plenty of project topics to choose from.

The IT department was responsive and made necessary and complementary software like versioning or specific writing programs available. The integration with other research facilities of the University enabled and supported multidisciplinary research.

Access to the library and online archives of university publication like dissertations is available with student ID and IT account respectively. Moreover, multiple online research platforms and publishers like IEEE, Elsevier and more are available through the university login.

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

The colleagues on site were all very helpful and competent, and with some initiative one can quickly start a conversation and obtain valuable input and factual discussions. This is often helpful in advancing with research topics and obstacles encountered during the project.

Numerous meetings ensured a good integration and frequent exchange between colleagues. The process of integrating new scholars and students is well defined and executed due to the number of rotating students doing research projects, theses or working over the summer.

## Recommendations for future Marshall Plan students and fellows

It is important and helpful to start early on with the application for the Visa and the search for accommodation if not provided by hosting institution. When searching for a place to stay, public transportation or biking distance to the host institution should be taken into account.

For stays longer than 1 year buying a car might be worth looking into, for shorter stays renting cars for trips is often a better alternative as Universities often have contracts with car rental agencies.

To help establish a balanced life and finding a group of friends during the limited stay, it especially useful to ask about events specifically designed to integrate international students into the university society.