

## **Field Report**

### **General Impression**

I thoroughly enjoyed my research stay abroad at FH St. Pölten. I was a part of a Surface Computing team where we created a surface table top application for the Stift Klosterneuburg. This project ended up being used as my senior project and was a great opportunity. Studying abroad required some sacrifice. I had to abandon a familiar lifestyle and culture, friends and family, and money. The sacrifice was all worth it though as I have already been seeing the benefits of studying abroad in my schooling, personal life, and career.

Learning to work in a multi-cultural and multidisciplinary team helped me learn how to be a better communicator, more open and understanding of different ideas and views of life, and how to be comfortable with the uncomfortable. Every day I was faced with something which pushed me outside of my bubble. I grew so much from my study abroad in ways I couldn't have if I hadn't studied abroad. I definitely see doing research abroad as a benefit to anybody.

### **Quality of Host Institution**

FH St. Pölten was equipped with all the necessary technology for me to be successful in my research and project. They also had great teachers to help instruct and guide us. They challenged and pushed us and although this was frustrating sometimes, was beneficial in the end. I know it helped me be a better student and allowed me to go above and beyond in order to make the most of my study abroad. The faculty in charge of International's was also fantastic. They were super helpful and made sure I was doing okay throughout my whole study abroad. I felt included and welcomed throughout my whole stay.

### **Recommendations**

I would definitely recommend making sure to balance school with exploring and having fun. Both are important. I know I first was focusing more on school but then realized I was missing out on other opportunities to grow and learn. As I mentioned before, studying abroad requires some sacrifice, and being able to find a balance between school and fun helps you get the most out of your study abroad.