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**Fellow of the UC Berkeley Program**

**Field report**

1. General impression of the research stay abroad

The research stay in the US was an overall wonderful experience. I am glad I had the chance to meet new people from every field and discuss my research interests as well as socialize and get to know the American community. The US is very different from Europe and diverse which makes it attractive for an academic to conduct research. The people were very friendly and willing to interact. Especially for an academic, being in the US at least for a short period of time is a unique opportunity.

2. Quality of the host institution

The Institute that hosted me (the Institute for European Studies) was very well equipped and the people (both the head of the department and the administrative staff) were always polite and willing to assist me in any issue that might arise. In addition, they offered to help me making contacts also with people from other departments that could be important for my research which I really appreciated. The University libraries are excellent and you can also find most of the literature online.

3. Contacts within the host institution, inclusion in the organization

Since I was there during the summer months of 2019, I only met a few researchers from the host Institution with whom I was able to interact and integrate. I felt included and comfortable since half of them were originally from there and half were guest researchers like me. The latter were really helpful in giving me advice and tips of how to arrange meetings, tips for the libraries and also discussing their experience with courses and interactions with Professors. I am also happy I attended some research meetings with the IT Institute in an interdisciplinary orientation which despite the summer period, were often organized. The VSPA forum is a very good

starting point for incomers as they also organize get together meetings and lectures from Post doc researchers informing about the US academic system.

#### 4. Recommendations for future Marshall Plan students and fellows Contact

In general I would totally recommend a research stay at Berkeley University. However, I would suggest that the 3 months period is extended for at least one more month since 3 months in the US might be short time in order to be able to both adapt to the new environment, meet new people and also be productive. In addition, if someone wants to attend classes or present a paper in a research seminar it would be preferable to go for a research stay either during the fall or winter semester. However, if someone wants to take advantage of the library resources and speak to specific Professors, summer is equally nice period since most of the Professors are there and have more free time to discuss with visitors.

As far as my research is concerned and given the challenge of my research topic in robot taxation and the expertise of the University in both AI and socially inclusive policies, I would say that my research stay at Berkeley University was a worthwhile and truly productive experience.

I am looking forward to another research opportunity in the future.

Best regards,

Christina Dimitropoulou