

7<sup>th</sup> of march 2020, Vienna

## **FIELD REPORT - Jana Fitz**

Utah Valley University – Digital Cinema

### **General impression**

My name is Jana Fitz and I am currently a bachelors' student enrolled in the program Media Technology at the University of Sankt Pölten. The general impression of my research stay in Utah is clearly very positive. I did not only gain new knowledge and skills, but I also got to know a new culture and met many new people. Utah is a very interesting place to live in as it allows you to dive into very, for Europeans, unusual life aspects. Since I am a media technology student and want to focus in the field of film and television, I considered it the best decision to go to the United States of America to experience the American style of filmmaking.

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

I chose Utah Valley University not only because of the great variety of different specializations but also because I wanted to get a closer look at Film Analysis, which is not taught so precisely at any other university. I had the opportunity to get a more detailed insight into this subject and therefore I expanded my knowledge of St.Pölten ideally. I had the chance to work with professional equipment and people which will help me with my future endeavours. Utah Valley University is an excellent institution, which has 200-degree options to choose from. The campus is not only big, but it also has a lot to offer. The professors work hand in hand with the student which leads to the realization of wonderful projects.

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

Carlos Alarco and the whole team of the Office of International Students and Scholars supported me with helpful information regarding the Visa process and helped me with all my questions. Carlos showed me around and helped with whatever was necessary to make my stay at UVU as comfortable as possible. Michael Harper, one of the coordinators of the digital media department, was also very friendly and helpful during my entire stay. If I had any questions he helped me straight away. The whole department of Digital Media

was extremely welcoming, friendly and it was possible for me to find a lot of new friends during my year abroad.

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

I am very grateful to have had these experiences and I can warmly recommend Utah Valley University to every student. Utah isn't the most exciting state, but it does have a magnificent landscape to offer and an incredibly interesting culture to discover. This state is also the perfect place for outdoor activities, such as hiking, skiing and climbing. I also would like to emphasize the openness and warmth with which Americans meet strangers, that's why it was very easy for me to get new friends. A tip I can give all students; save enough money and time to explore new places. I can recommend an experience abroad to everyone, you will make great memories that nobody can take from you.

I am infinitely grateful to the Marshall Plan Foundation for making this journey possible for me.