

## Marshall Plan Scholarship Field Report

Jackson Lloyd

My studies at the St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences were pleasant and effective. Starting with my contact with Daniela Lohner, Laura Zauner, Alois Frotschnig, and Kerstin Blumenstein in early 2019, my communications with the university were all very clear and positive. I felt well informed of the university's expectations and was directed to resources to set up various accommodations for when we arrived in Austria. Upon my arrival, the quality of the institution was quickly validated as I continued to meet with my upcoming professors, toured the campus, and began working in the university's iLab program — which was the main draw for me to come to this specific school.

The iLab program was an immensely immersive and interactive program which allowed me to fully dedicate myself and my full breadth of knowledge from my prior studies to help me design and develop a digital product to benefit Austrian Youth. This experience marked the last courses I would take in order to graduate from my home university. At the end of my time in Austria, as my formal education came to a close, I applied for a specific position at various companies and, fortunately, I received offers from all of my top choices. In the end, I received a higher paying job than originally anticipated with more benefits at a well-known company. I contribute a large portion of this success to the project I was able to complete in the iLab at FHSP.

For future US Marshall Plan Scholarship Recipients who are preparing to move to Austria, I would recommend preparing for more differences than you might initially expect.

There are many simple tasks that you've done your whole life in the US that are done differently in Austria. Not that one way is better than the other, but to be caught off guard by those differences can be startling and emotionally taxing. I would recommend spending time talking with people who have lived in both the US and Austria and learning what these differences are and how to prepare for them. While living in Austria, my life looked very different than it did in the US. Many of those differences, I came to love. Living in Austria and studying at the St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences has been one of the best experiences of my life and I will forever be grateful for the lessons I learned and the memories I gained.