

Field report – Marshall Plan Scholarship

Patrick Maier

Host University: Colorado School of Mines (CSM), Golden, CO

Home University: Montanuniversität Leoben

July 2019 – January 2020

General impression of my research stay abroad

The opportunity to spend several months at a research university in the United States to work on a master's thesis would hardly have been possible without the support of the Marshall Plan Scholarship. The financial aid of the Scholarship was sufficient for all expenses without the need to touch my private savings. However, this might differ for students who travel to more expensive areas.

I spent almost seven months in Golden, Colorado, at the Mining Department at CSM. The small city is very close to Denver and the Rocky Mountains and offers fantastic activities for outdoor junkies. As a J1-Short Term Visiting Scholar, I conducted my master's thesis, "Laboratory-scaled coal dust explosions and physical test results for CFD explosion models". The topic was chosen for me by my host advisor Dr. Brune, whom I know from my exchange semester at CSM in the Spring semester of 2018. Like in 2018, the opportunity was exciting, thrilling and instructive and I would whole-heartedly recommend it.

Quality of the host institution

CSM is devoted to engineering and applied science of the Earth's natural resources, which is very similar to my home university. The Mining Engineering department is one of the best in the world and has numerous collaborations with industry. The professors, research assistants, and coordinators are all well qualified and have a great relationship with their students. The weekly project meetings were always interesting, and I was able to learn a lot about managing projects and my research. Due to the reputation of the university it was able to attract industry personalities to hold weekly talks and give presentations.

Contacts within the host institution and inclusion in the organization

- *Advisor:* Dr. Brune, Professor of Practise, jbrune@mines.edu Mining Engineering
- *International Advisor:* Ashley Koerner, akoerner@mines.edu, International Office

You can always but be into CC if you want to contact them

Recommendations for future Marshall Plan students and fellows

The paperwork for the application of this Scholarship is extensive and you should start the process of filling it out as early as possible. It's also a good idea to get in touch with the coordinator and advisor at the host university to help you with the forms. However, do not let the paperwork put you off as the incredible journey, special experiences, and new friends you will make will make it all worth while.

Contact e-mail after completion of research stay

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