

Field Report

Marshall Plan research stay at Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC) and Stanford Institute for Theoretical Physics (SITP)

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General Impressions of the research stay abroad

Visiting SLAC/SITP was an enriching experience that certainly helped my work, both in terms of scientific output as well as in building important collaborations. Working with the renowned researchers at my host university has been incredibly helpful in furthering my understanding of my own research and has broadened by understanding of my area of work.

Living for an extended period of time in an other country opened my eyes to new experiences and certainly furthered my personal growth. Getting in contact with people that have experiences and lifestyles very different from my own was extremely enriching.

Quality of the host institution

SLAC and the campus of Stanford are both stunningly beautiful. The grounds are kept in perfect conditions and especially Stanford offers many restaurants, cafés and shops. The research institutions are modern and often very new.

The many different research institutions are home to some of the most accomplished scientists in their respective fields who are all open for discussions.

Contacts within the host institution

The first step in order to visit SLAC/Stanford would be to get in touch with a suitable host who is able to invite visitors. The host will then get you in touch with the secretary of the institute who will help you with the visa process and insurance. Once arrived the Bechtel International Center will get in touch with you to deal with any remaining organisational tasks.

Recommendations for future Marshall Plan students and fellows

I would recommend to apply for a Marshall Plan Fellowship to anyone who takes their research serious and wants to continue doing it. An extended stay at a renowned US research institution is not only a boon to ones CV but also allows one to build collaborations that may last well beyond the duration of the stay.

I would recommend to get in touch with a suitable host as early as possible and start working with them before arriving at the host institution in order to have a solid plan of the research that will be done during the visit.

On a personal level it is also very enriching as it allows one to experience a different culture and make new experiences.

To commute to and around SLAC/Stanford it is recommended to get a bike. The campus bike shop offers suitable rentals. The area is very bike friendly and even the campus alone is large enough to warrant such an investment. From SLAC to the Campus there is a bike lane along Sand Hill road that will make commuting between the two easy. As an alternative there is the free Marguerite Shuttle which offers transportation in and around Stanford. The CalTrain from Palo Alto is an easy way to travel to San Francisco or San Jose on the weekend.

On an organisational level one of the most important things to get is sufficient health insurance. Not only for the obvious reasons but also because the host institutions often have very strict requirements and are able to deny you the visa if those are not met. In order to avoid getting multiple insurances or a lengthy back and forth with the host institution I recommend to get in touch with the international office of the host university and make sure the insurance will be accepted before buying it.