

# Field Report

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### **Quality impression of your research stay abroad**

My research stay at Johns Hopkins University (JHU) at the Department for Biomedical Engineering in the group of Winston Timp was overall a good experience. I did learn a lot in both aspects, scientifically and culturally. It was especially a good experience to see how other groups are working and how they tackle problems. Baltimore, despite its reputation, has also its hidden gems. Although the city has a lot of rough areas, the neighbourhoods around the university are seen generally as safe. However, as many other US city, Baltimore is unfortunately a city made for cars, so public transportation is almost non-existent, especially when coming from a city like Vienna. However, JHU is actually providing a small bus system and a taxi service after 5 pm and on weekends to the neighbourhoods around the main campus.

Otherwise the main campus of the university, where I was located, is as somebody would image an American university campus, each department has their own red brick building/s. Moreover, located in a fairly big city, there was a lot of infrastructure, i.e.: food and drinks, around the university. The second campus of the university, which mainly consist of the hospital and attached research groups, is easily reachable with the bus system established by JHU.

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

The quality was superb. BME is one of the best departments in the USA in its field. The group of Winston Wimp, although quite young, is very professional and has a good mix of international and American students. The labs are in quite a good condition and has more than enough space to conduct your experiments.

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

The group was great. All colleagues were super welcoming and inclusive. The department itself hosted regular happy hours for their PhD students, and was in general very attentive to the student's well-being. During the semester a lot of scientific talks were taking place, leading to some good discussions. However, after the semester ends, this is not the case anymore as people go for vacation or concentrate on their work. The office for international relations is the first place to go, and are normally very competent and helpful with your issues.

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

Although I wrote before that Baltimore has its hidden gems, crime is still pretty high, especially for someone from Austria. When I arrived people essentially told me where not go before they told me what to visit. This means that one has be very conscious about where to go and how to get there. For example during night I only took the taxi home and never considered walked. Moreover, this means living is best around the main campus, where JHU actually has a security cordon of about 4 blocks around the university. This also translates to higher accommodation costs, especially for short term rentals, so start looking early enough.