

Field Report – Alexander Wiesinger

University of California, Berkeley – UC Ergonomics Program

General Impression:

My research stay at the UC Ergonomics Program was overall a great experience. I have lived in Berkeley for the duration of my stay and worked at the Richmond Field Station which is about a 20-minute drive outside of Berkeley. Berkeley itself is a very interesting city as there are a lot of students which means there is a lot of stuff to do outside of the workplace. I have learned a lot, both academically as well as culturally during my stay there. The people in the city are very open-minded and friendly. The research in Berkeley is at a top-level and it is very valuable to get an insight into that. California is a great place to live in as it allows you to do so much different things, from surfing to hiking and skiing. Overall, I can say my research stay was an awesome experience and I am glad that I got the opportunity to stay here.

Quality of the host institution:

The UC Ergonomics Program is a great lab which consists of Prof. Carisa Harris-Adamson, Alan Barr and a few students. I have mostly worked in projects with international students and conducted research studies. The institution is very renowned in its field and publishes a lot of scientific papers annually. The lab is in good condition and has a lot of space for the execution of the different studies and projects.

Contacts within the host institution, inclusion in the organization:

I immediately felt welcomed at the institution and whenever I had questions or issues I could ask for help. The people at the institution are very kind and make sure that you feel comfortable within the institution. Personally, I found it very good that there were a lot of international students at the institution. This makes it easier for you to fit in as well as allow you to do something together on the weekends.

Recommendations for future Marshall Plan students and fellows:

I can only recommend this institution to future students and fellows. However, the housing is expensive in Berkeley. If you stay in Berkeley for a long time you should make sure that you have the financial resources to do so. Another way would be to search for housing outside of Berkeley.