

MARSHALL PLAN SCHOLARSHIP - FIELD REPORT

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General impression of my research stay abroad

My research stay at Yale School of Medicine at the Immunobiology department in the Richard A. Flavell group was overall a very positive experience. During my stay there I was able to conduct my master's thesis research project. Not only have I gained valuable practical skills, but by attending additional courses, journal clubs and conferences I also had the opportunity to learn beneficial theoretical knowledge and listened to amazing lectures by the best people in the respective field. I also gained important presentational skills while presenting on various seminars and progress reports. Additionally, I attended classes that weren't directly linked to my field of research, such as philosophy and scene design, which helped me further expand my intellectual horizons. Professors and students alike are interesting, cerebral and creative people and conversing with them was always stimulating and fascinating. Studying at Yale helped me advance my scientific career and made me more competitive as a researcher. I would like to express my gratitude to the Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation for helping me realize this unique opportunity to meaningfully contribute to the research of one of the top-tier research organizations in the world.

Quality of the host institution

Yale University is one of the top universities in the world as measured by international rankings, academic citations, and research funding. It provides an excellent research and study environment. Faculty of the Yale Immunobiology department are globally recognized leaders in basic, translational, and computational immunology. Richard A. Flavell, my host and supervisor, is an excellent mouse immunology researcher, he leads one of the best funded and experienced laboratories internationally. The laboratory group is big with a diverse background knowledge and there isn't a topic in life sciences that one of them hasn't tackled yet. I was repeatedly amazed by the quality of the research and the valuable research insights I have received during my stay there. Additionally, the environment is very collaborative and with the help of a variety of in house facilities available you are able to perform essentially any experiment you desire.

Contacts within the host institution, inclusion in the organization

Everyone is generally very friendly and inclusive; the group regularly eats lunch together and discusses everything from the specific laboratory related topics to sharing cooking recipes. The group finds any excuse to spend time together and organize events in addition to an annual laboratory retreat. And if you want to meet even more people interested in Immunology, the department is very big and connected as well. They host regular friday happy hours where everyone eats, drinks, chats and has fun.

Recommendations for the future Marshall plan students and fellows

New Haven is a small town where most of the interesting events are Yale associated, but if you get bored of it or if it gets too small, Boston and NYC are both very close and well accessible. I recommend buying the 10 off peak trips offered by Metro North that connects New Haven and NYC, you will definitely use them all. Living in New Haven can get very expensive, as most shops available in the city and accessible by foot/bus are on the luxurious side. But if you shop for groceries in Stop&Shop and do all your other shopping on your trips to NYC, you can omit

excessive spending. I would recommend finding a shared flat in the East Rock neighborhood, as this is where most off campus students live so it is well connected with the Yale shuttle bus and this neighborhood is also considered safe. As far as crime goes, before I moved, I was scared by all the crime reports about how New Haven is one of the most dangerous cities in the US. However, my experience was good, and I had no problems. Of course, you should be careful, don't walk around alone at night, stay out of the dangerous neighborhoods and use the Yale applications provided for safety.