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Marshall Plan Scholarship

FIELD REPORT

by

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General impression of your research stay abroad

Even though heavily influenced by COVID-19, I have the fondest memories of my research stay in Irvine, California. From the very beginning, including the application process, my host-supervisor, staff from the host-university, and future colleagues supported me in the best way possible and gave me warm welcome. Thanks to the friendly environment, I was able to achieve my research goals and extend my research network.

Quality of the host institution

The University of California, Irvine (UCI) is well known in the computer science community for their outstanding results in database systems research. Students all over the world visit UCI to improve their skills and enhance their network. Subsequently, the university is well prepared for visiting students and researchers. Next to researchers, the non-scientific staff is exceptionally well organized, friendly, and supportive. I was guided perfectly through the enrollment process and got help to fill all the necessary paper work.

Contacts within the host institution, inclusion in the organization

First of all I want to mention my host-supervisor, Professor Michael J Carey; he supported me from the first minute and made it possible to organize all required documents within a short amount of time. Thanks to our successful collaboration, we recently started a follow up project together with Professor Chen Li from UC Irvine, an expert in the field of data management and query processing. Professor Carey and Li invited me to join the Apache AsterixDB group early on. Since then I attend the weekly meetings with database researchers from UC Riverside, UC Irvine, and Couchbase, a database vendor located in California. In these meetings, we exchange and discuss ongoing research results. In terms of administrative staff, Cynthia Kennedy from UC Irvine lead me through the process. She helped me to find the responsible persons and offices. I was fortunate enough to meet a group of great colleagues, PhD students and PostDocs in database systems, with whom I can discuss relevant details of my ongoing research.

Recommendations for future Marshall Plan students and fellows

UC Irvine is worth visiting. It is a perfect place to bring your academic career to the next level. The environment provides excellent researchers, supportive staff, appropriate office space, and a beautiful campus that includes housing and shops. I would recommend future fellows to apply for housing early on in the application process. The number of housing options are limited and for Austrian standards rather expensive.