

MANAGEMENT CENTER INNSBRUCK

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<b>Host-/Research Institution: Embry Riddle-Aeronautical University</b>	<b>Semester: 6</b>
<b>Name: Nico Hoffmann-Kuhnt</b>	

**Dear Marshall Plan Scholarship Holder:  
We would appreciate your feedback on your research semester in the United States.  
Your feedback will help future scholars to prepare themselves well for their sojourn abroad.**

**1. 1. What was your general impression of your research stay abroad?**

Even with the restrictions, given the current COVID-19 pandemic, it had been 6 incredible months. The main focus hereby was the difference between then German/Austrian approach to problem solving and product development and the American approach. Working in a far more experimental matter opened a lot of opportunities for fast prototyping and rapidly changing between approaches for problems. While the research methods had been completely opposite of what I was used to, so where the people. This experience changed a lot of my views on research and day to day life, making the stay in Florida more than worth it!

**2. 1. How would you assess the quality of the host institution?**

Perfect! From organizing my stay, till handling the Pandemic situation, the university did it's best to make my stay as comfortable as possible. During the first two months, before the restrictions, the university offered speeches of leading NASA scientists and so on to me, including me into the normal life the local students. Furthermore, I had been given the opportunity to join several clubs and research teams at the university, introducing me to many of the locals and students I'm glad to call friends by now.

**3.1. Could you make contacts within the host institution; inclusion in the organization?**

When preparing for my trip to Florida, the organization of the Embry-Riddle University contacted me, aiding me in getting my visa in every way possible. Upon arrival I had been greeted warmly and introduced to the beforementioned events, clubs and campus intern possible activities. During the lockdown I had been offered help on several occasions, especially in providing the meeting documentations etc.

**4. 1. What recommendations would you give future Marshall Plan Scholars?**

The fact that I was able to get to know my supervisor beforehand in Innsbruck had been an absolute blessing, making it possible to get a clear picture of what I would be doing during these 6 months. Therefore, if possible, in any way, online or in person, I recommend getting to know the lector beforehand. They will also form your main pillar of support for the first few months, or in my case the whole duration. I underestimated the difficulty of getting my own vehicle in Florida, which is absolutely necessary, making my rely on my professor a lot more than I wanted to in the first month. So, try to organize if not buy something beforehand that you just have to pick up once you arrive. Furthermore, living not on campus but in a shared flat was a very good idea, showing me not only the student life of the Americans, but also the day to day life of the normal working class.