

# FIELD REPORT - Robin Ramin

Florida State University

## **General impression of research period abroad**

My name is Robin Ramin I am currently a master's student enrolled at the University of Applied Sciences in the program electrical engineering.

The impression of my stay in Florida was very positive, however it was very short due to the corona virus pandemic. Nevertheless, I continued working from Austria, which was possible because I was allowed to amend my proposal. I learned a lot during my research work, not only about electrical engineering, but also about the working life & culture in the US as well as for Italy because my supervisor was an Italian. He taught me not by giving me the solution, but by just hinting me into the right direction.

## **Quality of the host institution**

I chose Florida State University because I already had connections to it and I knew that they had a huge department for power systems (CAPS). Unfortunately, I could not use or visit the laboratories because of the lockdown. The campus is huge compared to the ones in Austria. In my opinion it is recommended to get a car when you want to get around, especially when you work at CAPS which is outside of the campus. Thanks to the administration at FSU and their international office, the process of application was straightforward as well as registration at work and the handling of the situation when I returned. The IT support is excellent as well. Since I was dependent on my computer during my work, I was very happy that my issues were solved in no time and with a low level of complications.

## **Contacts within host institution / integration in the organization**

As already mentioned, the administration staff (Nancy R.) and the international staff (Angélique S.) were very friendly and processed all my questions and requests fast and to my satisfaction. My supervisor (Michael S.) and additional advisor (Gian Carlo M.) were nearly always available and always reachable via E-Mail. Gian Carlo supported me a lot in his profession of partial discharges and physical behaviour of high voltage insulation systems. The rest of my team supported me in the means of technical questions about software and smart ways of achieving reasonable results. I had a lot of fun working together with all of them. It was also great to have a weekly online meeting with other students of the department I was working in. In this meeting we shared our findings and helped each other when anyone had problems.

## **Recommendations for future Marshall Plan Students/Fellows**

I am very grateful to have/had these experiences and I can warmly recommend the Florida State University to every student wanting to work in CAPS. Florida is very hot and without a car you will have a hard time. However, with a car it just takes 30 to 50 min arrive at the beach. The people in Florida are very friendly, relatively open to strangers. I would recommend taking the opportunity to apply for the Marshall plan because you meet a lot of new people, learn different cultures, eat exotic food and get experience in your profession while working.