

Field Report



Home Institution: Carinthia University of Applied Sciences, Villach, Austria

Host Institution: The University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA

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General impression:

I am very grateful that I got the opportunity to do research work at UNM for 4 months. During the COVID-19 lockdown, I was very lucky to have all the support from my colleagues at UNM, the staff, people, and neighbours. Albuquerque is a nice and calm city to live, there are a lot of students and the people are in generally very friendly and open-minded. During the lock down there was not much to do as the university closed 3 weeks after my arrival and all work was done from home. Nevertheless, me and some other students in my dorm managed to make safe activities the with social distancing such as basketball, video games and cooking.

I was working in the Physics/Astronomy and Interdisciplinary Science (PAIS) building for 3 weeks before the lockdown of UNM. I utilized the incredible infrastructure in PAIS to work and prepare the work-from-home period. Even though these 3 weeks do not seem a lot, but I found all the support from my supervisor and colleagues especially after the lock down.

Quality of the host institution:

UNM is a great working place that is full of activities and different facilities. I had a short time working inside UNM and most of the work was done from home and in both cases the equipment that were given to me were very sufficient for finishing my project. The lab offered (both on-site and from-home) all the

equipment you could possibly need to perform the experiments which enabled me to get all the empirical results in needed during my research period.

Contact within the host institution, inclusion in the organization:

I felt very welcomed during my stay in UNM and I got immediate help from colleagues, supervisor, or staff whenever I needed one. I have not got the chance to meet a lot of other students. But I was invited to a “virtual hangout” many times and there, the people were very friendly and nice as always.

Recommendations for future Marshall Plan students and fellows:

I think UNM is a great place to work and study especially with the support of the Marshallplan fund. The housing is not expensive in Albuquerque and people can always make new connections. However, Albuquerque is known to have crime problem in some areas, and I recommend going out with people who spent enough time to know the good and the bad places. I also recommend, always asking for help from UNM when facing any problem, the people are very helpful and supportive.

Yours faithfully,

MOHAMMAD SADOON