

Field Report

This is the field report for my time in the United States of America during the period from the 28th February to the 3rd of August 2020. I had the opportunity to write my Masters Thesis with the title “Improved Anomaly Detection in Computer Networks with Evolutionary Undersampling” at the University of Bowling Green, Ohio.

General impression of research period abroad

Of course, the events happening at the beginning of 2020 slightly overshadowed my stay in the US, but overall I can say it was still a wonderful experience that I would not like to miss anymore. Ohio is very different from Austria, for instance, the highest mountain in Ohio is 470 Meters high (1550feet), but this is simultaneously the beauty of this state. The long straight roads with miles and miles of cornfields are just breathtaking. The research period was a challenging time during the COVID situation but in the end I am more than happy that I got the opportunity to do it.

Quality of the host institution

Even though I spent most of the time in my apartment due to the lock-down that happened just two weeks after my arrival in Bowling Green, I always felt well supported. My supervisor Robert C. Green II, Ph.D. from the department of computer science always found time to talk to me and help me with all kinds of questions. He provided loads of tips and tricks for the area around Bowling Green.

Contacts within host institution / integration in the organization

The staff of the university is very welcoming and helpful. The international students office was very quick, and they always tried their absolute best to ensure that my stay was a pleasant experience.

Recommendations for future Marshall Plan Students/Fellows

I would highly recommend the Bowling Green State University if you are ok with a smaller city with limited things to do. The public transportation situation is very limited, and it could be challenging to explore the surroundings. The university offers a bike rental service which is called “BGSU Bike Rental”, there you get to choose from at least 50 different bikes for the whole research period. Also, I can highly recommend staying at a student living complex, such as “The Edge” or “Falcons Pointe”, as you will be able to meet more people within your stay. All in all, I can only recommend everyone to do a semester abroad. In my opinion, staying in different cultures for an extended period is an experience that you will not get so easily in your life. You will meet countless new people and build friendships, which are an incredible enrichment for your career as well as your personal life.