



## *CHUST – Chemical U.S. Travels*



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### *Travel Story 2017*

**Name: Carlos Rodriguez**

**Year and line of study at KTH: First year Master Chemical Engineering**

**Which university did you visit? CCNY, New York**

Time frame: 10 weeks

Visa type: J1

Insurance: ISO

Scholarship: 2000 USD minus tax from CCNY

#### Project description

I worked with Janus Nanoparticles under Professor Kretzschmar supervision. Janus particles are a special type of nanoparticles due to the preparation process. My project consisted in the determination of the diffusion coefficient of nanoparticles when they are exposed to external fields. The activities that I did in the lab were recording videos of the nanoparticles and analyzing those videos. My direct supervisor during my internship was a PhD student named Thomas. Most of the time that I worked in the lab, neither Professor Kretzschmar nor Thomas were in the lab with me. I highly suggest talking regularly with Professor Kretzschmar to get feedback on your project.

#### Campus life

CCNY is in the north of Manhattan. During the summer, they have few activities. However, some facilities like the school gym are open for a few weeks and are free for Chust students. There are a lot of activities and places to discover in New York. For instance, one day I went with some friends to the lower part of Manhattan and we saw a parade. Few cities can offer the same entertainment options as New York.

Living in New York is expensive. I lived with other 6 Chust students in a three-room apartment. Living with other KTH students was a great experience. Each of us paid 9000 SEK of rent. Eating in some restaurants close to university cost from 5 USD to 15 USD. I think that finding a good accommodation is crucial to save some money. We found the accommodation through Airbnb. Although it was easy to find a place, the apartment was overpriced and the apartment had several problems. If I went to New York again for Chust, I would ask Professor Kretzschmar some tips to find a place in other sites ( Craigslist, other students).

#### Application

I did not have any problems during the application process. The only tip that I can give is to have all the required documents every time you do something. Also applying for the visa can be expensive I paid approximately 3000 sek for the visa process. Professor Kretzschmar answered all my questions that I had about the application process.

The only problem with administrative procedures that I had it was with the social security office. In order to get a social security number, you have to have an address with a mailbox where the social security office can deliver your number. The mailbox in our apartment was broken. Thus, I did not get the social security number in the first time I applied. The process of getting a social security number takes at least 2 weeks. I got my number the last day I was in the US. It is important to say that CCNY cannot pay you if you don't have a number. I recommend future CHUST students to apply for a social security number as soon as possible.

Best regards,  
CHUST committee 2016/ 2017