



## CHUST – Chemical U.S. Travels



### Travel Story 2017

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**Name:** Emil Blomdahl

**Year and line of study at KTH:** Teknisk kemi, Year 3

**Which university did you visit? (Name, city, state):** City College of New York, New York, New York

Time frame: 10 weeks

Visa type: J1

Insurance: Gouda Leva Utomlands

Scholarship: \$2000 from CCNY

**Please write about your travel, internship and time in the U.S. by answering the questions below as detailed as possible, in 1-2 pages. You may answer in Swedish or English.**

#### Project description

*Can you describe the project you were working on? What subject area did it cover? How did the contact with the Professor/supervisor work? How long was an average day in the lab?*

I worked in Prof. Messinger's electrochemistry lab. My project was focused on Aluminum Sulfur (Al-S) batteries. I was given the task to set up battery testing for Al-S batteries, study electrochemical reactions and look for ways to improve battery performance. The communication between the supervisor and me worked well. There was always a PhD student in the lab I could I ask. A normal day in the lab was 9-5, but it was very flexible. I could take a day off to travel if I wanted to.

*What new things have you learned during the project? Was your prior knowledge sufficient for you to handle the tasks presented to you? How much responsibility were you given?*

I didn't know much about electrochemistry when I first started the project, but I learned a lot about the subject as the project went on. Prof. Messinger and the grad students did not have high expectations, so my prior knowledge in electrochemistry was definitely sufficient. They had some ideas about what could be done during my project, but it was up to me to decide. I would say I was given a reasonable amount of responsibility.

## Campus life

*What was life like at the university you visited? Campus life, nightlife and potential trips?*

CCNY offer summer classes, so campus life was fairly active during the summer compared to KTH. We spent a lot of time with the American graduate and undergraduate students who worked in our lab. I lived with six other KTH students who also had internships at CCNY. We did lots of things together in the city and some weekend trips to other cities.

*How much did it cost living in your city? How did you finance the stay in the U.S? Scholarship or private funds? If you received any scholarship, did you need to send any documents to the university in order to receive the funds?*

New York City is expensive. I was given a scholarship of \$2000 from CCNY, but I received the scholarship after I came back to Sweden. I financed the rest with private funds. CCNY was very clear before the internship what I was supposed to send to them. I sent a scanned copy of my passport, proof of studies at KTH and a letter from my bank. They also sent two documents, DS2019 and DS7002, I had to fill in and send back.

*How did you find housing during your stay at the university and how much did it cost? How satisfied were you with the housing situation?*

I lived with the other six KTH students in an apartment in Harlem, which we rented through Airbnb. The apartment we rented was very close to the school. It was pretty simple and not very well kept. I think I paid around 8000 SEK per month. Airbnb is a safe option, but can also be expensive. To future students, I would recommend asking the grad students and professors at CCNY if they could help with housing over the summer.

## Application

*Were there any problems that did arise during your stay that you think future students need to know about? In such case, which problems did you encounter?*

To get the scholarship I had to get a Social Security number and a Social Security card, which was a bit tricky. I never received the Social Security card since I was not listed on the address I gave them. I was able to get the scholarship anyway since I could get my Social Security number from the Social Security office. I would recommend getting the Social Security card as soon as possible when you arrive in the US.

*What documents did you need to send to the university and what did you need to bring to the embassy in order to get your visa approved?*

To get the visa approved I had to send CCNY the same documents I sent them to get the scholarship. I don't remember exactly what documents I had to bring to the embassy, but I remember they had it listed on their website.

*May we publish your travel story on the official CHUST webpage ([kongligkemi.se/chust](http://kongligkemi.se/chust)) so that future exchange students can be helped by the information?*

Yes