



CHUST – Chemical U.S. Travels



Travel Story 2016

Name: Malin Stauber Alfredsson

Year and line of study at KTH: Will start the 4th year, Chemical Engineering

Which university did you visit? City College of New York, New York

Time frame: 10 weeks

Visa type: J1

Insurance: Gouda Leva utomlands

Scholarship: 2000\$ from CCNY, 3061 SEK from school of chemistry KTH, 13 000 SEK from Stiftelsen Rolf L. Paulssons minnesfond

Project description

My project was about electrochemistry, more specific electrodeposition in ionic liquids. I worked a lot with cleaning electrodes, setting up experiments in the glovebox and analysing the results with SEM and TEM. I learned a lot during the internship, for example different instruments as Karl Fisher titration, SEM, TEM, potentiostat and how to work in a glovebox. I have also improved my knowledge in electrochemistry, lab safety and gained lab experience. I think my previous knowledge from KTH was sufficient, I wasn't expected to know anything about the electrochemistry that the project concerned before starting. I had enough instructions and trainings at CCNY to be able to do the experiments. I worked mostly together with another summer intern from CCNY this made it easier for me to learn since I had someone to discuss with. Since my Professor was not at the office during the second and fourth week of my project, I was given a lot of responsibility from the beginning. Most of the time we worked without her supervision and we only contacted her when we needed to discuss what to do next. We asked the other PhD students in the group for help if we needed it. The average day at school was from 9.30-17.00, the time was flexible and depended upon how much I had to do. I think I had more to do than the other CHUST students at CCNY but I tried to just spend the same numbers of hours at school as them.

Campus life

The university didn't organize many activities during the summer but I had a great time anyway. There is always something happening in New York and you can always find something to do. I shared an apartment with three other CHUST students which meant that we did a lot of things together. However, we also hang out with other PhD students and interns at CCNY during the summer, for example we went to see a baseball game with my group. During the summer I also visited other cities, we went to Washington DC and to the Niagra falls and Toronto, which I really can recommend. Nightlife in New York is amazing, the city has everything from beer gardens to

rooftop bars. Make sure to prepare a bucket list with things you want to do because the time flies and it's nice to have when you plan your days and good to look back at and see all these fun things you did.

I paid 6700 SEK/ month for sharing a room in the apartment that was located in East Harlem. I think that part of the city is okay to live in if you don't live there by yourself. I wouldn't recommend to walk alone during the night. We rented the apartment through Airbnb and I think the housing was okay for that price, housing is really expensive in NYC. The good part of living there was that the grocery store nearby had really good prices compared to downtown. I financed my stay with different stipends from KTH and CCNY. To receive the money from CCNY I had to get a social security number and fill in some papers that I was given from the college.

Application

To CCNY, I had to send a filled in DS-2019 form, copy of passport, letter from the bank stating I had a certain amount of money and a filled and signed DS-7002 form. The DS-7002 had to be send in paper form to the US, so make sure to send this in time. When you receive the DS-2019 check that everything is correct otherwise they have to send a new form. To the embassy I had to bring a picture of me, personbevis 200 - alla relationer and the other documents that the university sent. When I came to CCNY I had to show that I was insured, make sure to contact your insurance company and ask them to send you a paper with your name and what the insurance covers.