



## *CHUST – Chemical U.S. Travels*



### *Travel Story 2016*

**Name:**

Hanna Nilsson

**Year and line of study at KTH:**

Biotechnology, year four.

**Which university did you visit? (Name, city, state):**

University of Hawaii at Manoa in Honolulu.

Time frame: 8 weeks

Visa type: J1

Insurance: Folksam's reseförsäkring

Scholarship: Stenhagen and CHUST

**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?

I was working on cloning genes from the thuricin CD pathway into a suitable plasmid.

What subject area did it cover?

Cloning, protein production and protein purification.

How did the contact with the Professor/supervisor work?

My supervisor Julie was really friendly, providing sufficient support during the days in the lab (if needed). She was always working during my project hours and we had close contact on both phone and mail. The professor Dr. Jarrett worked in an office a few floors down, and was available if needed. I only saw him twice, when discussing project details, and he seemed very nice.

How long was an average day in the lab?

Usually from 8.30 am to 4 pm. They were super flexible with me if there was anything I needed to do (or even take a day off).

What new things have you learned during the project?

Working independently in a lab without direct guidance. Being inventive and taking some initiatives. How a day-to-day life working in a lab is like and better English of course.

Was your prior knowledge sufficient for you to handle the tasks presented to you?

Yes, my theoretical and experimental background was sufficient, but the project was still challenging.

How much responsibility were you given?

Just enough to feel like I needed to perform and produce good result, but without negative pressure.

### Campus life

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

Everyone in my group was social, and we usually went out to lunch together on the campus area.

Every other Friday there was a barbecue on campus with all employees from our department. I did not explore the nightlife very much.

How much did it cost living in your city?

Honolulu is very expensive. A month's rent is about \$1600. Food, transportation together with everything else is pricy, like you expect it to be in a tourist paradise.

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?

I financed my stay with a little bit of scholarships, but mostly private funds. It was not possible to get a scholarship from Hawaii University.

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 found housing through Hawaii Student Suites, but they are a little more expensive than a room at the campus area. I was living much closer to the beach, which I can recommend since it is super hot.

### 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?

No, Dr. Jarrett and his team were helpful and informative.

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?

All the documents the CHUST Committee recommended me to send.

**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

**Thank you for taking the time to fill out this form and share your story!**

**Name the document according to: "University – Your Name" and send it as a PDF to [chust@k.kth.se](mailto:chust@k.kth.se)**

Best regards,

CHUST committee 2015/ 2016