

My name is Moufida Taieb, a former international student at Berkeley City College who had the opportunity to be a CIRM intern. Even though BCC seems to be a small college, it provides a high quality program (Lectures, lab work etc.) that can be helpful to prepare those students who want to become researchers. The thing that I really liked about BCC is the class size that would not exceed 30 students, which let the instructor able to conduct the class and the student to get the information in a proper way, which I could not get when I was a master student in Molecular and Cell Biology. As an international student I faced many obstacles to reach my goal and do research, starting from the language that I had to learn to the wet lab experience that I needed to acquire. Being a CIRM intern had the biggest role to help me enter the world of research from its widest doors. I did my internship at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF), which is ranked among the best universities that are doing research, in a cancer lab (The Goga Lab) where I worked closely with a post doc on a breast cancer project studying the oncogene MYC. My PI, Dr. Andrei Goga was very satisfied with the progress I made in a very short amount of time and he offered me a job position after I was done with my internship, as a Research Associate on a head and neck cancer project.

I worked on this project for two years, in the meantime I was applying for graduate schools, and it finally worked. I am currently a PhD student at the DKFZ in collaboration with the university of medicine Mainz, Germany. What I wanted to show is that being a student at BCC and a CIRM intern was the first step for me to become a researcher.

I really believe the BCC is the right place to spend the money coming from the CIRM grant based on the high quality of the Biotech program provided.

Best regards,

Moufida