

Hello everyone,

I would just like to take a few minutes to describe how pleased we have been with Mykyta's time in the lab. We have always had a good experience with the Linz Biological Chemistry students – they are well educated, genuinely interested in science and hard workers. Last year we were fortunate to have two students in the lab that managed to exceed our expectations for a BSc student.

Mykyta's strengths largely revolve around his intelligence and independence. His topic is quite a complex one, but he was very quick to understand the background and significance of the work. I usually only needed to describe an experiment once and he would come back later with data and his interpretation of it. In fact, I feel Mykyta was on par with most PhD students in his ability to understand what the results of an experiment were telling us. Furthermore, since he was able to comprehend new material quickly, Mykyta was able to learn and contribute data from a variety of molecular biology assays. In most cases, he was picking up where someone else left off, often because they were not able to accomplish the task. It was also very clear that he is excited by basic research and this drove him to produce a significant amount of data in a very short time, especially considering the amount of coursework these students must also complete. Despite all these great attributes, there is always room for improvement. I would encourage Mykyta to focus on the small details of his work and thesis and to ask more questions about experiments before realizing after the fact that something could have been done in a better way.

In fact, Mykyta impressed us so much, that we offered him the exceptional opportunity to travel to France last summer and learn how to perform metabolomic assays with a collaborator. Considering that this is not the expertise of our lab, he did a great job of preparing himself about the technique, adapting quickly to a new environment and rapidly preparing samples for analysis. His contributions greatly helped move a current project in the lab forward and has generated great excitement from our collaborator. Mykyta has a ton of potential and we would love to see what he could accomplish if he had a couple years in the lab unimpeded with classes.

Thank you.

Alena Zikova

