Abstract for an Invited Paper for the APR09 Meeting of The American Physical Society

Life as a graduate student in a globalized collaboration 1 CLAUDIA FRACCHIOLLA

A global vision is important, if not essential, in all scientific fields. In the case of graduate students, the language of instruction is not the only issue. We must learn different research methodologies and understand a new set of complex cultural dynamics both in our living situations and in our new university workplaces. My research program is in experimental particle astrophysics. I study ultra-high energy cosmic rays with the Pierre Auger Observatory located in Argentina. More than 400 scientists from 18 different countries are a part of this science program. As a graduate student within this model provides me with a comprehensive understanding of global cultures combined with research skills, proficiency in different languages, and an international experience. I will discuss the benefits and challenges of working in a large international collaboration, and how it can help you grow not only as a scientist, but also as a person.

¹Pierre Auger Observatory