



BERICHT

(Bitte spätestens 2 Monate nach Beendigung Ihres Auslandsaufenthalts vollständig übermitteln)

1. Gastuniversität (Land/Stadt/Uni) USA / Champaign / University of Illinois

2. Studienjahr Wintersemester 2016 Sommersemester 20

Aufenthaltsdauer (Tag, Monat, Jahr) von 15.08.2016 bis 16.12.2016

3. Studienrichtung(en) Mathematik Matrikel. Nr [REDACTED]

Bachelorstudium Diplomstudium Lehramtsstudium Masterstudium

E-Mail-Adresse (optional) [REDACTED]

4. Stipendium bewilligt für 4 Monate Stipendium Uni Wien gesamt 2100 €
weitere Stipendien — € Bezugsquelle —
Gesamtsumme Stipendien 2100 €

5. Wohnmöglichkeit (zutr. bitte ankreuzen): Studierendenheim Privat

6. Kosten Unterkunft gesamt 2850 € Reisekosten gesamt 1000 €
(An- und Abreise, öffentl. Verkehrsmittel)
Lebenshaltungskosten gesamt 2500 € Visakosten 320 €
Studienkosten gesamt 150 € Versicherungskosten gesamt 550 €
Gesamtkosten Auslandsaufenthalt 7370 €

(z.B. Studien - Sprachkurs-, Bibliotheksgebühren
Kursmaterial, Application Fees)

Verfassen eines persönlichen Erfahrungsberichtes über Ihren Studienaufenthalt

Anhaltspunkte: Gastuniversität, Kurse, Prüfungen, Mitstudierende, Unterkunft etc.

(Bitte verwenden Sie ein extra Beiblatt: mind. 1 Seite; Überschrift des Berichtes: Ihre Matrikelnummer, Name der Gastuniversität und des Gastlandes, Ihre Studienrichtung sowie der Zeitraum des Aufenthaltes.)

Abgabe des Leistungsnachweises der ausländischen Institution (Transcript) sowie des Anrechnungsbescheides (Formular: Antrag-Anerkennung-Studienerfolgsnachweis)

JA, ich bin damit einverstanden, dass dieses Formular zusammen mit meinem Bericht für Mitstudierende auf der Webseite zur Ansicht zur Verfügung steht. Bitte bedenken Sie, dass Sie diesen Bericht auch anonymisiert ohne Name abgeben können.

NEIN, ich stimme einer Veröffentlichung nicht zu.

Persönlicher Erfahrungsbericht

Matrikelnummer: [REDACTED]
Gastuniversität: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA
Studienrichtung: Bachelorstudium Mathematik
Zeitraum des Aufenthaltes: August 2016 – Dezember 2016

The number of things to do before embarking on an exchange semester should not be underestimated—the multi-stage application process in Vienna, applying to UIUC, arranging housing at home and abroad, taking care of vaccines and health insurance, completing the student visa process, buying plane and bus tickets, etc. The process can be overwhelming, especially since the regular semester in Vienna runs concurrently with the exchange preparations. It was all worth it, however, since those months in Illinois were a very positive and enriching experience, and I would definitely choose to do it all over again.

The campus at UIUC is beautiful and a great learning environment. There are numerous libraries and study areas, enormous sport facilities for students, lovely parks, many cafés and pubs, theaters and concert halls...the list goes on and on. It is a very big campus and I greatly enjoyed the experience of living there. Moving around can sometimes be a bit cumbersome since the distances are considerable and public transportation is not optimal. Getting a used bike or renting one for the semester (bike shops around campus offer semester rentals) could prove very practical.

In terms of health insurance, for simplicity I chose the one offered by the university. If you decide to take that route my only advice would be to avoid any health facility other than McKinley Health Center. According to fellow exchange students who went anywhere else, even the most trivial of procedures could turn out to be very costly.

It is important to arrange your housing for your stay at Illinois as soon as possible during the months before the exchange. I chose to live in a university dorm called Sherman Hall. There were a lot of exchange students from all over the world living there. It is a graduate dorm, which makes it considerably cheaper than the regular undergraduate ones, and you can have a private room. The rooms are tiny and the general quality of housing (dorms or anything else) is markedly worse than the usual in Vienna. However, staying in a dorm has its advantages, namely that you don't have to do things like set up your internet connection or paying any monthly bills. It is very simple in that sense, which saves you some stress. The location was also a key advantage—Sherman Hall is just a short walk away from the campus center (Main Quad). Other reports by past exchange students emphasize the convenience of living on campus, and I can only support those views.

A few weeks into the exchange I was already missing the food in Vienna. Talking to other exchange students I think this feeling was widespread. Buying healthy groceries on campus is not cheap, and travelling to places where it is cheaper takes time. The fast food choices are never-ending though, so if you enjoy that then you will not run out of options. Since Sherman Hall does not really have kitchens, I got a meal plan and ate at the university facilities for convenience. The first few weeks were okay but eventually the food gets tiresome. In

hindsight, I would probably try to live somewhere where I could cook, but finding such an option as a four-month exchange student could be challenging.

Regular students register for courses several months in advance, so a lot of classes are already full when exchange students get access to the system. This, however, should not worry you too much before you arrive in Illinois. It is the norm for students to try different classes during the first few weeks of the semester, and academic advisors are sympathetic to exchange students; for example, they may allow overrides and register you in a class that's already full. In the case of the mathematics department, a wide variety of courses are offered each semester, which gives you the possibility of trying different options during the first weeks and carefully deciding which courses and professors you prefer. After some moving around, I was quite happy with the courses I took and the quality of the teaching. Getting the courses recognized in Vienna was not a problem, probably because the mathematics curricula are more universal than other fields of study.

The grades for the courses at UIUC are calculated based on many different factors, not just a big exam at the end of the course. Normally there are weekly deadlines to submit assignments, regular short quizzes, at least two or three midterm exams, and a final. This comparatively high workload must be sustained throughout the semester, but thankfully this system also reduces the pressure since no single exam is completely crucial and there is always room to compensate with other assignments. Moreover, grades are often curved to fit a certain distribution; for example, an exam score of 50% could still translate into an A, provided your classmates had a similar performance.

There are plenty of travelling opportunities, the most obvious one being Chicago, which is only a few hours away. Thanksgiving break, for those attending during the fall semester, is the perfect time to plan a longer trip, especially since campus gets completely empty during those days.

All in all, I am very happy with my choice to spend an exchange semester at UIUC. I highly recommend the experience to anyone interested.