



BERICHT

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

1. Gastuniversität (Land/Stadt/Uni) University of Chicago

2. Studienjahr Wintersemester 2016 Sommersemester 20

Aufenthaltsdauer (Tag, Monat, Jahr) von 16.09.2016 bis 27.03.2017

3. Studienrichtung(en) Physik (Soziologie) Matrikel. Nr. [REDACTED]

Bachelorstudium Diplomstudium Lehramtsstudium Masterstudium

E-Mail-Adresse (optional) [REDACTED]

4. Stipendium bewilligt für 6 Monate Stipendium Uni Wien gesamt 2.900 €
weitere Stipendien 1.800 € Bezugsquelle Topstipendium Land NO
Gesamtsumme Stipendien 4.700 €

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

6. Kosten Unterkunft gesamt 2.980 € Reisekosten gesamt 1.020 €
Lebenshaltungskosten gesamt 3.300 € (An- und Abreise, öffentl. Verkehrsmittel)
Visakosten 317 €
Studienkosten gesamt 1.050 € Versicherungskosten gesamt 960 €
(z.B. Studien - Sprachkurs-, Bibliotheksgebühren Kursmaterial, Application Fees) Gesamtkosten Auslandsaufenthalt 9.127 €

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.


University of Chicago, United States of America,

Physics & Sociology, 16.9.2016-27.3.2017

I stayed off campus in a shared apartment with 3 other UChicago students at 51st and Woodlawn. My room was not so big (about 12 m²) and my apartment not super close (20-40 minutes walk) to campus – but my rent was very cheap (530 \$/month), the apartment very big and the whole place perfect for me! I was very lucky with my flat mates as well. I found my place over <https://marketplace.uchicago.edu/> which is a website linked to the University where people can post things. I only started looking for a place in August, which was pretty late, but still managed to find something in time. Concerning the safety and distance of the location for a place: everything North of Campus up to 51st is fine, South maybe only up to 61st. East should be fine and West up to Ellis Avenue, I would say. In general the area around Campus is safe: the University has its own police force which is patrolling a lot.

Starting with the year of 2016 the University introduced the “UPass” which is a (mandatory to buy) pass for the public transportation in Chicago. Per quarter it is 98\$ and absolutely worth the money! You can go wherever you want in Chicago! It is not working during Winter Break, but Spring Break is covered. Another great thing as UChicago student is that you can use your UChicago ID to get free/reduced entries for lots of things! The Art Institute (super expensive otherwise) is free, also the Museum of Science and Industry, the Chicago History museum etc. and reduced tickets for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra or the Lyric Opera. I took advantage of these things all the time and enjoyed it a lot to have those great opportunities! I made sure that I left Hyde Park quite often, I went Downtown or to other areas of the city (as the Mexican neighborhood Pilsen, or Wicker Park) – exploring Chicago and seeing real American life is very important for a study abroad experience!

As I am a double major in Sociology and Physics, I always had reading classes but also calculation classes as well. Already in Vienna I was very used to lots of university work, so the University of Chicago was not extra hard for me- I actually had more free time to fill as all my scheduled hobbies were missing. But I do know that most of the other exchange students felt very different about this, there is a reason why the unofficial motto of the University is: “Where fun comes to die”. In my reading classes I had between 60-500 pages per week per course to read (less pages were usually papers and the huge amounts were novels). The classes were all *very* interesting and good – teaching is considered as a very important and honorable part of a professor’s job, which is why pretty much every class is super good! As you are only allowed to take 3 courses per quarter, you can really focus on the topics and dive into them. The University offers a variety of very different and specialized courses, I took advantage of that and took only classes that I was really interested in – also when I knew that I would not get credits for them back home.

I loved every single hour I spent on campus. Apart from the great libraries, there were many more options to find a place to study: lots of coffee shops all across campus, reading rooms, empty class rooms, museums etc. It was great to experience a Campus instead of a university spread around a city (both has its advantages). I loved studying on campus – always moving around and working at different spots, with different people or by

myself. Food on campus is expensive – so I tried to bring my own food most of the time, but I had a mug from C-Shop with which you can get coffee for just 1\$. Another offer they have is the 1\$-Wednesday-Shake. The university offers a lot of events where they hand out free food and drinks to students, especially during finals week – these events were always lots of fun and I went to most of them!

The quality of the courses was amazing, I had the great opportunity to take classes with very famous physicists and sociologists. The discussions in my classes were always super fascinating and the students highly motivated to take the most out of every reading and class or lecture. The topics were very interesting and I had lots of classes where we had a variety of assignments. For example one of my classes: research project (analyzing data or going to court, etc.), a final essay, weekly readings (or movies or podcasts) and lots of guest speakers (authors of books, workers from the jail, gang members, etc.). In my physics classes I usually had a lecture 2-3 times a week and a problem set each week. But these problem sets are written homework to hand in and do not need to be presented in front of the class as in Vienna, which I preferred a lot more! The books recommended also helped a lot and the teachers or teaching assistants were always super nice and helpful – in the U.S. the teachers want you to come to their office hours! Also the discussion classes usually helped when working through the problem sets or studying for the exams.

I found a group of people playing Volleyball (not as competitive as the real team) at the gym: Henry Crown each Tuesday and Thursday night and joined them. They were still a lot better than me but I had lots of fun! Furthermore, I did archery twice a week, which was great as well (for this I had to pay 20 Dollars per quarter – which is totally worth it). I also took advantage of the great concerts that UChicago was hosting and volunteered for some of them, that way I got in for free. Another great experience was the DocFilms: there is a movie theater on campus where they are showing one or two movies every day during the quarter. With the quarter pass you can go to any movie you like, which I did a lot! In addition, the gym Rathner offers different sport classes each day – I went to Yoga twice a week but they also offer Kickboxing, Zumba, etc. The memberships for the gyms are included in the student life fee.

I spent most of my time together with other exchange students – we managed to organize ourselves beforehand over Facebook and were about 30 people who kept in close contact. We did lots of things together: starting from spending time next to each other in the library when studying and reading (which was a lot), going to Downtown or other parts of Chicago (like the lake!) or going on trips (New Orleans, NYC, Boston, D.C., Toronto,..). We were a mix of different nationalities and are still all very close to each other. Most of us lived off campus (some organized beforehand to share an apartment), as it is a lot cheaper, but there were a few which lived in the International House or other dorms.

All in all my experience at the University of Chicago was incredible and I am very glad that I made all the effort to go there and that I was able to do so as well! It was a once in a life time experience, and if I could – I would get back right away and do everything all over again, it was amazing!