



BERICHT

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

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

2. Studienjahr Wintersemester 2016 Sommersemester 20

Aufenthaltsdauer (Tag, Monat, Jahr) von 14.09.2016 bis 02.04.2017

3. Studienrichtung(en) Vergleichende Literaturwissenschaft Matrikel. Nr [REDACTED]

Bachelorstudium Diplomstudium Lehramtsstudium Masterstudium

E-Mail-Adresse (optional)

4. Stipendium bewilligt für 6 Monate Stipendium Uni Wien gesamt 2800 €
weitere Stipendien € Bezugsquelle
Gesamtsumme Stipendien 2800 €

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

6. Kosten Unterkunft gesamt 3900 € Reisekosten gesamt 800 €
(An- und Abreise, öffentl. Verkehrsmittel)
Lebenshaltungskosten gesamt ca. 3000 € Visakosten 300 €
Studienkosten gesamt ca. 1200 € Versicherungskosten gesamt 370 €
(z.B. Studien - Sprachkurs-, Bibliotheksgebühren Kursmaterial, Application Fees) Gesamtkosten Auslandsaufenthalt ca. 9570 €

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/ Chicago, USA

September 2016 to March 2017



Comparative Literature

People might tell you that the University of Chicago reminds them of Hogwarts and somehow it does. Seeing the University Campus for the first time was beautiful and breathtaking. But it was the atmosphere there that caused me to fall in love with this university.

And of course there was the wonderful City of Chicago.

Contrary to many other American universities, the University of Chicago is actually situated within the city. Students can be in downtown in half an hour, by bus. That might seem far for European standards but it is really close for American standards.

As the people at UChicago will tell you, Chicago is a city of neighborhoods. It is a city full of diversity and full of ambivalence. Chicago is a city with an incredible architecture because so many different architectural styles coexist there. It is a city of great museums, blues bars and comedy. Actually, the city is really famous for its stand-up comedians who performed there and I managed to see some great shows while I was there. The University even owns a small stand-up comedy theatre close to campus and student groups perform there.

An amazing experience at the beginning of the autumn term was the orientation week and I am glad that I didn't miss it. All the freshmen undergo one full week of introductions, instructions and events to get to know each other. They receive information about the University, about the City, about everything (including free food and many giveaways). Everything is explained and taken care of. For us students from the University of Vienna, this was very unusual. It was funny but also nice to see how the students there are taken care of. It reminded us a lot of school.

I really enjoyed the American Campus life. I lived off campus, because living in the dormitories would have been too expensive. However, if you can afford it, I would really recommend you live in one of the dormitories on campus. The students live together, eat together in the dining halls and are a real community. Furthermore, students are really encouraged to take part in extracurricular activities, which all take part on campus. Most of them are free and if not, there are only small fees for certain equipment. I tried out fencing and did archery for one quarter, which I really enjoyed and might continue here in Vienna.

The University has great theatre groups, choirs and bands, who perform plays and concerts that are really worth attending. Those shows and activities also create new ties among students and encourage them to feel like a part of the university community.

The courses are something I really miss as well. First, there is a great system at the beginning of each quarter that you can basically go to all of the courses and then decide which ones you want to take. It is called course shopping and it is a great system, as long as you don't have trouble deciding (like me) and then end up with more courses than you are allowed to take.

This limitation regarding the number of courses one is allowed to take is actually a really good system. Exchange students are only allowed to take three courses per quarter, which seems very little compared to the usual number of classes at the University of Vienna. However, each course is held twice or even three times a week and can be quite stressful due to the quarter system.

Of course, it depends on your field of study and on the courses you choose, but for me, the workload for each course was higher than the workload I am used to in Vienna.

On the other hand, it is quite difficult, if not even almost impossible to fail a course at UChicago. The large amount of small assignments and mid-terms offer many ways to make up for eventual failures. On the one hand, there is more pressure to succeed, there are more expectations, because the University of Chicago is an esteemed private university with renowned professors working there. But at the same time, maybe also because it is a private university, people there want you to succeed.

I decided to take American Sign Language for two quarters, even though I didn't need it for my studies in Vienna. But I am really happy about my decision. The course was funny, interesting and special and I would definitely recommend it.

I took history classes that taught me a lot about certain aspects of American Culture. Despite the four hundred-page books that I had to read for those classes each week, I miss those classes and the professors who were so enthusiastic and committed and funny. It was great to be really occupied with one specific topic and being able to learn a lot about it.

I have some American acquaintances now, people I might visit, when I go back to Chicago, but I didn't really make any American friends there. It didn't have to do anything with the students; they were mostly really nice and sympathetic. But I think it is normal and quite common that exchange students mostly stay amongst themselves and become a group of friends who share the experience of living in a foreign country.

The University of Chicago is very open – minded and liberal and even though it is a private university, it is not elitist. The university is not known for its great football team (I am not even sure if it has one), but it has famous alumni coming from all fields. The students there are creative, innovative and really enthusiastic about their studies (if you go to the library early in the morning, you will find a couple of students, who obviously slept there, especially during finals). There is a saying at UChicago: Where fun comes to die. But we had fun. Lots of it. And if the stress during finals week became too stressful, if we needed a break from writing papers and preparing for exams, there was always free food or a midnight breakfast on campus to get us out of our rooms and make us forget about studying for a while.

Studying at the University of Chicago and living in this great city was a wonderful experience for me. I found new friends and I learned to see things in a different way.

The University of Chicago felt like home and I guess it will always remain a second home for me.