



## BERICHTSFORMULAR

### Non-EU Student Exchange Programm

2018/2019

BewerbungsID 601

Nominierte Studienrichtung: 066/840 Studienrichtung Masterstudium Psychologie

#### Angaben zum Aufenthalt:

Gastinstitution: The University of Chicago - (USA)

Aufenthaltszeitraum: WS 2018/2019

Aufenthaltsbeginn: 22.09.2018    Aufenthaltsende: 23.03.2019

STIPENDIUM	
Stipendium Uni Wien gesamt laut Zuerkennung: (inkl. Zuschüsse für Reisekosten und Sprachtest)	€ 3.700,00
Weitere Stipendien (zB Jasso, Studienbeihilfe):	Weitere Stipendien: Nein <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stipendium des Gastlandes:</li><li>• Bundesländerstipendium: nein</li><li>• Studienbeihilfe: nein</li><li>• Sonstiges Stipendium:</li></ul>
Summe weiterer Stipendien	€
Gesamtsumme aller Stipendien	€ 3.500,00

KOSTEN DES AUSLANDSAUFENTHALTS	
Unterkunft:	€ 3.747,00
Art der Unterkunft:	Privatunterkunft
Reisekosten:	€ 750,00
Lebenshaltungskosten:	€ 3.300,00
Studienkosten:	€ 1.500,00
Versicherungskosten	€ 807,00
Visakosten:	€ 150,00
Gesamtkosten des Auslandsaufenthalts:	€ 10.254,00

Bericht veröffentlichen:

## **Gastuniversität, Kurse, Prüfungen, Mitstudierende, Unterkunft, etwaige Schwierigkeiten etc.**

If I now look back at my time at the University of Chicago as an exchange student, I would call it an fruitful experience. I was able to enhance my knowledge and skills in many areas and participate in an study environment, which is unique in differing ways.

Before I started to get into the study experience, I arrived in New York City and undertook some exploring of this city and some others in the northern American hemisphere. I also took some time to go around Chicago to get the gist of the city beforehand. In general, I would recommend planning for travelling before or after the semester/quarter, because there is not much time during your studies. The study time, also called the first quarter, started in the beginning of October. The first obstacle was the registration process for the courses. I could register for any course; it did not need to be associated with my regular study discipline. However, we had to wait until the first day of the courses until we were able to enroll into any course. This led to the situation, that course was already occupied, before we could even register or enroll, because regular students could do this a week before the courses started. So even if the responsible liaison office told us, that we were on par with regular UChicago students, there was a glaring gap regarding the odds of getting into courses. There were also other aspects of the exchange experience were this "special exchange student status" was noticeable – but more on that later.

The course selection nevertheless was exceptional, the range of disciplines and subdisciplines was astounding. From New Media Art to the Molecular Structure of the Neuron you can broaden your study scope or focus and specialize in your specific field of research. I mostly did the courses in my specific field of interest, neuroscience. The wide range of courses in this field allowed me to further develop in subfields, that I wasn't involved that much during my time at the University of Vienna. On the one hand because, they were not available on my faculty, on the other hand, because there are not many interdisciplinary opportunities regarding course selection. As a leading research institution, the University of Chicago provided a study environment were research and study clusters were easily formed and students were invited to join these. The everyday working schedule was quite tight. Every course was two or three times a week and for every date there were research papers to read and assignments to work on. The first exams already awaited you after five weeks, also called midterms. The finals followed five weeks after that. Because UChicago works on a quarter system and expects top notch performance from its students, the expenditure of the student is plenty. Nevertheless, like I said before, this also helps to mature as a student and junior research in an exceedingly prolific way. Your colleagues in your classes vary very much depending on the applied culture of the course, some are very competitive others more cooperative. In any case you will have to put effort and work into every class but will be rewarded with the satisfying feeling of sipping on that sweet nectar of scientific insight and personal development.

What has to be mentioned is are the additional fee, which are not covered by the tuition fee. The so-called Student Life Fee and the College Class Fee amounted to another 1680\$ through the whole semester. Depending on the financial background of the exchange student it can be troublesome. This should be covered by the stipend. Furthermore, the student ticket for public transport, called UPass, was not available for exchange students - without any further explanation. Another case of being treated equally like any other regular, as proclaimed by the organizational staff of the university.

Regarding housing, the best option is to look for rooms in a co-living space. You will find available rooms on craigslist, maroon marketplace or specific facebook groups. There are also some interesting cooperative housing projects, that you can look for. If you are lucky in your search you will be able to find the first UChicago colleagues through your new living space. Otherwise you can also make easily contacts by attending student organizations or by talking to the other students in your classes. There is a wide variety of student organizations, that feeds to every interest – political, economic, theatrical, sportive or cinematic. I would recommend trying some of these, because a lot of free time of students is distributed to the work at these student organizations. Furthermore, you should not restrict your new social circle to UChicago, because it is kind of a bubble and Chicago and its people

have a lot to offer as well. To meet these people, you should go to the interesting neighborhoods like Pilsen, Logan Square, Andersonville and Wicker Park. There you can find different subcultures, multicultural cuisine, museums, a thriving music scene and if you have the ambition, political engagement. In general, inside and outside the university people are welcoming and if you are not shy yourself, you can meet many great humans.

Enjoy your time!