



BERICHTSFORMULAR

Non-EU Student Exchange Programm

2021/2022

BewerbungsID 8658

Nominierte Studienrichtung: 033/505 Studienrichtung Bachelorstudium Soziologie

Angaben zum Aufenthalt:

Gastinstitution: The University of Chicago - (USA)

Aufenthaltszeitraum: WS 2021/2022

Aufenthaltsbeginn: 27.09.2021 Aufenthaltsende: 19.03.2022

STIPENDIUM	
Stipendium Uni Wien gesamt laut Zuerkennung: (inkl. Zuschüsse für Reisekosten und Sprachtest)	€ 3.600,00
	Rückforderung: nein Rückgeforderter Betrag: € Rückforderungsgrund:
Weitere Stipendien (zB Jasso, Studienbeihilfe):	Weitere Stipendien: Nein <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stipendium des Gastlandes: nein () • Bundesländerstipendium: nein • Studienbeihilfe: nein • Sonstiges Stipendium:
Summe weiterer Stipendien:	€ 0,00
Gesamtsumme aller Stipendien:	€ 3.000,00

KOSTEN DES AUSLANDSAUFENTHALTS	
Unterkunft:	€ 5.800,00
Art der Unterkunft:	Privatunterkunft
Reisekosten:	€ 2.000,00
Lebenshaltungskosten:	€ 10.000,00
Studienkosten:	€ 1.100,00
Versicherungskosten	€ 2.000,00
Visakosten:	€ 200,00
Gesamtkosten des Auslandsaufenthalts:	€ 21.100,00

Bericht veröffentlichen:



PERSÖNLICHER BERICHT

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Verfassen Sie bitte einen persönlichen Bericht über den Studienaufenthalt

- **Mindestumfang:** Fließtext 1 Seite DinA4
- **Inhalt:** Gastuniversität, Kurse, Prüfungen, Mitstudierende, Unterkunft, etwaige Schwierigkeiten etc.

BERICHT ÜBER DEN STUDIENAUFENTHALT

Before I say anything specific about the 7 months spent at UChicago, I want to state that this has been the most gratifying academic experience I have ever had! If you are still in doubt about whether to pursue this exchange – by all means take your time to prepare and apply. The cost-benefit ratio is phenomenal since one year for regular undergrad students amounts to 80000\$... we get it for free plus the Uni Wien scholarship. Ergo, a one-in-a-lifetime chance to study at a top-10 university 😊

Accommodation

Uni Wien does not provide exchange students with accommodation at UChicago, so you'll need to look for it yourself. The best place to find roommates and accommodation in general is on Facebook (in a group called University of Chicago (UOFC) Housing, Sublets & Roommates). Facebook groups often ask for a UChicago ID before they let you in, so keep that in mind. You should start actively searching for rooms no earlier than the end of August. Before that you will not see many offerings, so don't let that discourage you. I really recommend living with either another international student or a regular UChicago student. It immerses you into the cultural bubble a lot faster than when you live alone (which was my mistake). If you try to move in with roommates, some of them may ask to do a Zoom interview prior to accepting your request. This might seem odd but definitely do it! The probability that you will end up living with someone you truly like will increase.

In case you decide to live alone or look for a place somewhere else and not in the official Facebook group – please avoid a place called “3L Living” at all costs. It is being advertised on Google a lot; they buy positive reviews and put them on top of the Reviews page on Google Maps to conceal the 1-star ratings that are actually valid. Living there was one of the few yet major downsides of my experience in Chicago.

University

Getting a chance to study at UChicago was the biggest highlight of the whole experience. Professors had an individual approach to every student. They knew my name and academic background and could eagerly spend 3 hours helping me with any problem. The system that lets you choose classes gives you the opportunity to read detailed feedback about each one, which has proven to be extremely handy. Even if you don't end up taking the



classes you've declared initially, you will definitely find something for yourself since the catalog is enormous. Something formal to mention - it doesn't matter if you already have a certain thematic concentration in your studies or want to explore various courses during the exchange, I would advise you to leave the Alternative Erweiterung credits for this purpose. This way, you'll be able to take classes that might interest you once you are at UChicago (e.g., I have taken contemporary drama and computer science although my major in Vienna is sociology).

The university also has many RSOs (extracurricular clubs) one can be active in apart from constantly being in the library. If you have time (UChicago is quite rigorous in that regard), by all means join an RSO! I recommend Quiz Bowl because you can travel across America for free with the team.

The university has also proven to be helpful in times of acute crisis. When a student got shot with a stray bullet near campus, the administration gave all students a free taxi pass for Lyft, so that everyone could get home safely. In times of international conflicts, professors have actively reached out and offered to cancel assignments or postpone deadlines.

City

Unfortunately, Chicago, and especially Hyde Park, is quite unsafe. The most common crime is armed robbery, so I recommend not to carry valuable stuff around unless you really need to and always walk in groups. The university tries to make an effort in providing safety with police circulating around campus all the time but that does not prevent individual cases of crime. The safest way to move around Chicago is usually by bus or Metra (an S-Bahn equivalent).

Generally, there are many areas worth seeing in Chicago - Downtown, Pilsen, Lincoln Park, Andersonville. In order to visit everything I really recommend to make an effort and leave one day of the week free of studying. Sometimes it can be hard with the workload UChicago prescribes but it's worth it. If you are bored in Chicago, you can take a trip to Evanston (a small town on the lakeshore up north from Chicago) or Indiana Dunes (a forest park in the south). Chicago is plausibly located for (inter)national flights as well - just 2 hours away by plane from NYC, 5 hours away from San Francisco and 4 hours away from Cancun, Mexico. On your visa, you get a chance to travel to Mexico and Canada, which is a great plan for Christmas break or Spring break.