

## **Experience Report UT Austin Texas**

### **Application/ Preparation**

The application process is the usual Viadrina application, where you apply for the nomination at Viadrina. Although it is important to know that the UT is a very frequently requested partner university. Because of this, the application is composed of several rounds including a personal interview.

After you got your place and accepted the nomination it is crucial to follow the steps of the very detailed preparation plan and look for accommodation.

I found a room in a beautiful apartment right in the heart of West Campus.

It's to be highly recommended to live in West Campus as the district is full of students and the closest to campus you can get.

The best way to look for rooms is by joining multiple Facebook groups (Austin Housing, Austin Leasing and Subleasing, etc.).

### **Arrival**

I left Germany on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August and flew to Austin with Condor (cheapest price with very quick connection). Here I arrived in the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> and took a bus for only \$1 to Austin. I had to spend the first night in a hostel but could move in the morning after.

Very quickly you will be welcomed by the typical warm southern hospitality.

Most people are unexpectedly friendly and helpful.

### **Settling In**

I highly recommend trying to find an apartment in which you live with other Americans.

This way it's easy to avoid finding yourself in groups consisting of mostly other international students. While this can be a lot of fun, to me it would have defied to purpose of my semester abroad. I wanted to really feel what it is like to study in Texas and living with 4 US boys was the perfect way to get there. Within 2 weeks I felt as a part of several groups of good friends that took time and enjoyed showing me around in Austin and share with me was is most exciting and special to them about the UT.

## University Live

Studying in the US is very different from the life you are used to in Germany.

The classes were a lot smaller, attendance is mandatory and you will be surprised by the amount of homework, take home quizzes and assignments you have to do right from the beginning of the semester. Your final grades will consist not only of your exams, but also the work you put in in class and all other assignments.

This leads to an overall much higher workload over the semester but takes away from the extreme stress in the last days before the exam. I recommend to try to find people to study and do the homework with.

After one week I just asked the people sitting next to me if they want to meet, turns out they already had a study group that I could join. This made the work a lot easier and fun!



The University is huge and the campus gorgeous! With more than 60.000 students it is impossible to compare it to the Viadrina. It seems like its own city full of life, restaurants and places to sit in the sun or find shade from the sometime unbearable summer heat.

## Mood / Austin

The city of Austin is amazing. Austin earned its name “Live music capital of the world”! With an open eye or a good guide, you will be able to find countless venues with live music playing from the early afternoon till late at night. Lights on at 2am when going downtown on the weekends takes some getting used to but with the right crowd that is no reason for a fun evening to end.

When it comes to food Austin never fails to deliver. Often it’s best to head for the food trucks with the longest line.



They convince with good prices and some of the tastiest food around. It is worth the wait! Make sure to try a lot of authentic Tex Mex but most importantly, do not miss out on the barbecue!

If you are going to Austin during football season make sure you buy UT's Big Ticket.

With this you will be able to go to every game and enjoy the never seen before mood, experience the rush of winning the game and shout your lungs out with the crowd going: "Texas Fight!!!!". I wasn't into football

at all before coming but was soon swept away and proud to be part of the Texas Longhorns fans.

The surrounding area is full of viewpoints, the Colorado river, forests and creeks and much more to explore.

If you want to experience all aspects of living in Austin, make sure that you are over the age of 21 by the time you start your trip!

### **Departure**

By the time my semester came to an end I had fallen in love with the city and its people head over heels. I left to fly back home around a few days before Christmas and while I was looking forward to seeing my friends and family all I could think about was how much I will miss the absolutely stunning time I had the luck to enjoy!