

Fall 2009

at the Oklahoma City University in Oklahoma City, USA

Preparation for my semester abroad

As soon as I heard from the great opportunity to do an exchange semester during my studies, it was clear for me right away that I wanted to do one some time. I finished my bachelor's degree pretty fast, so I decided to do it during my last semester of my master's degree.

After handing in my application at the BIB (Büro für Internationale Beziehungen), I was really exciting to receive some kind of response from them. I can still remember the day, when I got the email saying that I was accepted for an exchange semester at the Oklahoma City University (OCU).

After overcoming my excitement, I realized that there was still a lot of work waiting for me til the day I would leave. Filling out forms for our university in Klagenfurt, the application process with the Oklahoma City University, visa application, arranging an appointment at the embassy in Vienna, making numerous passport photos, getting an international driver's licence, applying for different scholarships, ... and the list goes on and on. But all the effort is really worth it.

Arriving @ Oklahoma City University

First of all, I have to say that I was really lucky to be able to share my experience at OCU with my best friend. After traveling the West Coast for a couple of weeks, we finally arrived at Oklahoma City on the August 14, 2009. Picked up by our coordination, Eleanor Inglis, we drove straight to our new home for the next five months. Although, the first few days were a little bit stressful, we could finally settle down and move into our apartment. The first few steps included buying basic articles for our new home, like bed sheets, towels, blankets, cooking ware, hygienic articles and of course food. After our first weekend in Oklahoma City, we had an orientation week and were able to get to know the campus and some of our professors.

A normal day @ University

First of all, I have to say that we only had classes on Tuesday and Thursday. Both days looked the same: two classes in the morning and two classes in the evening. In short, a normal day looked the following:

8.15 am: getting up – 8.50 am: going to the cafeteria (or short: caf) to have breakfast – 9.30 am: start of the first class – 10.45 am: end of first class – 11.00 am til 12.15 pm: second class – 12.15 pm: going to the caf to have lunch with friends – 1.15 pm: going to our apartment to get some rest or prepare for further classes – 2.30 pm til 3.45 pm: third class – 4.00 pm til 5.15 pm: fourth class

After finishing all our classes we usually went home to our apartment and either cooked straight away or waited for some friends to come over to cook dinner together. In the evenings we either watched a movie at home, went to the movies, met friends at our place or went to some friend's place. On the weekends there are a couple of opportunities to go out and party

Experience for life

Altogether, I can say that I really enjoyed being at Oklahoma City University. Studying abroad is great and everybody should have the chance to do so. At first it is a lot of work to arrange everything, but it is really worth it. Getting to know other lifestyles, cultures, meeting new people and making friendships for life are some of the major points, why a semester abroad is such an excellent opportunity. I promise, you will not only have a good time there, but also take a big advantage for your life with you.

Should you have any questions concerning an exchange semester in general, about the application process, about Oklahoma City University in particular or anything else, I am more than welcome to help you with your questions and concerns.