



WS 2011/12

**Washburn University/Topeka, Kansas, USA**

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Abschlussbericht

FINANZIELLE BELANGE:

In the following paper I would like to give a final overview about my semester abroad in the USA. I was studying one semester at the Washburn University in Topeka/Kansas. Topeka is a middle size town and the capital city of Kansas. The nearest airport is airport at Kansas City in Missouri. The airport is appropriate one hour away. A city shuttle is driving to the airport every hour for 50\$ one way. Arriving for the first time at Kansas City airport one volunteer from the University of Washburn will pick you up and drive you to the University. At the University the foreign students will live at the campus. You can either live in the dormitories with double room or in the dormitories with single room. A single room cost around 300\$ and a single room around 500\$. In the single room you live in an apartment and you have a kitchen and a fridge. In the double room you do not have either of them. The extra that foreign students have are costs for books and a meal plan that each student has to have. If you live in the single room, the meal plan can vary from 400\$ per semester up to over a 1000\$ per semester if you live in the double room. The costs for books are around 200\$. If you live on campus, you have to book the meal plan and the money for books. The international office is offering free rides to Wallmarkt each weekend to buy food and clothes. For food you pay weekly approximately 50\$ (sometimes a bit more or less). Also it depends on your meal plan and if you have a kitchen to cook or not. At the cafeteria a burger cost around 4\$ and with fries and soda the whole meal is around 6-7\$. You can easily spend 20\$ a day, if you eat breakfast, lunch and supper at the cafeteria. So the 1000\$ per semester are usually gone before the semester ends, if you only eat in the cafeteria. The library is for free and you do not pay if you print papers or articles. You can also use the Internet at the University. The Bookstore is in the union, but the books there are kind of expensive. Since there is no way to get the book money back, if you do not spend the money in the semester, you better buy books there

instead of wasting the money. Wash machines cost 1.25\$ per washing. For the flight you spent around 1000 €for a return flight and you spent around 3500 €for living there. So all in all you spent around 4500 euro.

## UNTERBRINGUNG

Nearly all the foreign students, who are studying at the Washburn University for one semester, are living in the dormitories at the campus. The cost vary from 300\$ up to 500\$ per month. A bed, a desk and a wardrobe is in the room. Bed linens are also there but they are really thin. The dormitories are ok. For the kitchen the student needs to bring their own kitchen utilities. The noise level is also ok. There are students, who are responsible for one building and they keep an eye on the noise level and on the students, who are living in their building. So if students have any trouble, they can go to this student and they will deal with the complaint. The trick is to be a good friend with the RA. This makes you life a lot easier.

The academic advising centre helps the students to sign up for their classes. There the students get help and advices about what kind of courses they should book and what kind of course are required for their degree. The week before the first week of the semester the international office gives every student an appointment with senior student. The senior student helps and shows how to book courses and classes and how to register for them. The senior students are also showing the campus and the different offices, like the business office, where the students have to pay for the housing or the academic adviser office for academic advice. The international office is doing everything to give the students a good start of the semester.

During the semester the students get participation points for each course. If the students attended every course hour they get a bonus or the attendant counts 5% for the final grade. If you miss more than 3 classes during the semester you have to withdraw from the courses. The presence is very important for most of the courses. Also is for the academic success the attendant very important. During the semester is the workload higher than I was used to from Austria. You have to do assignments and homework for nearly every course from one class to the next. So you have constantly something to do. On the other hand, to finish the course, you have to write one final exam at the end of the semester. The end of the semester is less stressful and demanding then in Austria. You have to do constantly something during the semester and all what you do counts for your final grade. As an international student you get

help and a little bonus from the professors and most of them also recognize that English is not your mother language.

The Professors and teachers at the Washburn University are all really friendly and helpful. Usually, there are 20 students in one class, what makes the relationship between professors and students really intensive and good. If the students have any questions or need help, the professors always give an advice and feedback. If the students need help, they can visit the professors during their office hours to talk about assignment or the courses. Assignments are corrected very quickly. The service offered by the professors and teachers is excellent and you learn a lot in the classes. Mostly every student at the Washburn University is interested in international students. The students are really friendly and curious. They want to know where the student is coming from and what how is like to live for example in Austria. They are opened and friendly, what makes the communication with the students at the Washburn University really easy-going. To get to know them really well, you have to stay in contact and talk to them a lot and you have to make the first and second step. Sometimes it seems that they were really interested in the first place but they lost their interested during the weeks. The international office is very helpful and provides every student with a good and solid start at the Washburn University. They give every student a lot of information about the Washburn University and life in Topeka. They also make sure that you have a health insurance. They explain the American way of live to the international students and introduce some student organizations so that the international students get to know them and can join them.

To get to and from the airport you can book a road runner for 50\$ for one way. The roadrunner picks you up at the Washburn University and brings you to the KCI airport at Kansas City. In Topeka there is one bus running every hour and you can take the bus from the Washburn University to the mall and Wallmarkt. In America is the public transport-ion system very limited. There is nothing but a bus. Most of the American students have a car so if you can make friendship with someone who has a car I would highly recommend this. Everything is easier, if you have a car or know someone who has a car. I was visiting New York and Washington before I came to the Washburn University. During the fall break I visited Las Vegas and the Grand Canyon. South West Airline, Delta and American Airlines are the cheapest airlines in America. Flight's is not as cheap as with Ryanair but for 200\$ I was flight to Las Vegas and back. You can also take the train to Chicago for around 90\$ one way or take the bus, for example greyhound bus, to nearly every destination you want. But the buses and the trains are taking a lot of time. For travelling I would recommend the time

during the summer and early autumn but you can also travelling during the winter. It all depends on the destination.

Der Joint-Study Bericht ist in englischer bzw. der Unterrichtssprache der jeweiligen Gastuniversität zu verfassen,  
der Bericht für die Allgemeinen Stipendien (KWA, AKZ) hingegen auf Deutsch.

Binnen vier Wochen nach Abschluss des Auslandsaufenthaltes müssen die Berichte dem Büro für Internationale Beziehungen per Email als Word Dokument übermittelt werden.

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Der Zwischenbericht sollte eine Seite und der Abschlussbericht zwei bis drei Seiten umfassen!