

AUFENTHALTSBERICHT

Dieser Bericht ist **innen 2 Monaten** nach Ende des Auslandsaufenthaltes in Mobility Online hochzuladen (Joint Study)/per E-Mail an ceepus@boku.ac.at zu senden (CEEPUS). Die Aufenthaltsbestätigung der Gastinstitution sowie die von der Studiendekan*in unterschriebene Äquivalenzliste nach der Mobilität ist in Mobility online hochzuladen (Joint Study) /per E-Mail zuzusenden (CEEPUS). Bei Nichtvorlage kann der gesamte Stipendienbetrag rückgefordert werden (siehe Annahmeerklärung). Rückfragen an jointstudy@boku.ac.at /ceepus@boku.ac.at

GRUNDINFORMATIONEN

1. Name der/des Studierenden: **Anonym**

Studienrichtung: **H 066 450**

2. Gastinstitution: **University of Georgia**
 Gastland: **United States of America**

3. Zeitraum Ihres

Auslandsaufenthaltes: **von 06. 08. 2023 bis 15. 12. 2023**

Studienjahr: **2022/2023**

EMPFEHLUNGEN FÜR ZUKÜNFTIGE STUDIERENDE

4. Information über die Gastinstitution: Wie hilfreich waren die folgenden Informationsquellen?

(Geben Sie bitte jeweils eine Ziffer zwischen 1 und 5 an, wobei 1 = nicht hilfreich und 5 = sehr hilfreich):

Homepage der Gastinstitution	4
Studierende / Freunde	2
Lehrende an der BOKU	5
Studienpläne	5
Gastinstitution	5
BOKU International Relations	4
Sonstige: facebook groups and forums	3

5. Wie stufen Sie Ihre Kenntnisse in der Sprache der Gastinstitution ein?

(1 = sehr gering bis 5 = ausgezeichnet)

	Vor dem Aufenthalt im Ausland					Nach dem Aufenthalt im Ausland				
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Leseverständnis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hörverständnis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sprechvermögen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schreibvermögen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

6. Betreuungssprachen an der Gastinstitution und deren zeitlicher Anteil in Prozent:

Betreuungssprache Deutsch:

☐ Ja

☒ Nein

1.) English	100 %	3.)	%
2.)	%	4.)	%

Welche Empfehlungen können Sie zukünftigen Studierenden über das Gastland und die Gastinstitution geben? (Frage 7 -14) Bitte Empfehlungen, Informationsquellen, Ansprechpartner und Links angeben

7. Gastland

In case this is your first time traveling to the US, it might be a bit of culture shock; the amount of homeless people can be somewhat disturbing, the lack of reliable public transport system, generally the 'American way' can be quite overwhelming. The consumer culture really is on another level, it permeates literally every aspect of their daily family and professional life. People tend to be superficial, but helpful. If you travel around, be cautious and stay in safe areas. Travelling around is expensive, the cheapest airlines are Spirit and Frontier, there are limited bus and train options available, but I highly recommend trying out the Amtrak train, there is even a train going from NY down to the South, but also a connection from Atlanta to New Orleans (<https://www.amtrak.com/regions/south.html>). The car-sharing options are not really available, so team up with fellow travellers. I recommend a Facebook group called Host a Sister for women who want to meet and stay in safe places with other women. The food is rather low quality everywhere, but I highly recommend trying out their farmers market (there is one in Athens as well <http://athensfarmersmarket.net/locations>). You can pay everywhere with a credit card, but check your bank fees, it is also possible to open an American bank account, but it is less hassle if you have something like Revolut that offers a fair exchange rate. Some things are ridiculously expensive, like deodorant for example (8 bucks for the same brand that you'd get in Europe).

8. Gastinstitution

UGA is a very well organised University. They really make sure that their students have access to all types of tools and facilities. There are a lot of organisations that are super active on campus, so I highly recommend checking some out. During the orientation week they introduce you to all possible activities and resources, so make sure to take advantage of those. They also offer a lot of support in terms of mental health, financial struggles and so on, they really take excellent care of their students. The campus is enormous and public transport is free, but unreliable. I recommend getting a bike from craigslist or signing up for free on at this link: <https://tps.uga.edu/alternative-transportation/bulldog-bike-share/>. You basically write them an email and a professor or a mentor writes a reference for you, and you get a bike to use while you are there. The big supermarkets are reachable with a bike or car, there is a smaller Target in the center of town. The dining halls offer a variety of foods, but I opted out of that because it is not particularly healthy, but they offer a good price. I only took PhD courses, so this might be the reason for my experience, but the classes are very time consuming; do not underestimate the workload. I signed up for 7 classes and dropped 3 of them. The professors thought I was crazy to even sign up for 7. Do reach out to the professors, they are insanely helpful and kind. Most even write recommendation letters for you just because they want to help. The structure of signing up for classes and the overview is a bit complicated and not that well organised, but your coordinator at UGA will be of huge help there.

9. In welchem Maße fühlten Sie sich sozial integriert?

(1 = überhaupt nicht bis 5 = sehr gut)	1	2	3	4	5
Lokale Kultur / Gesellschaft im allgemeinen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Studierende an der Gastinstitution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ausländische Studierende an der Gastinstitution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

10. Mit Hilfe welcher Kontaktpersonen (an der BOKU / an der Gastinstitution) haben Sie Ihren Auslandsaufenthalt organisiert?**11. Wie stufen Sie die Hilfe in Beratung und administrativer Abwicklung ein?**

(Geben Sie bitte jeweils eine Ziffer zwischen 1 und 5 an, wobei 1 = niedrig und 5 = sehr hoch):

BOKU International Relations	5
von Lehrkräften an der BOKU	3
von der Gastinstitution	5
von Studierenden an der Gastinstitution	5
von anderen:	

12. Anmeldeformalitäten, finanzielle Unterstützung, andere Erfordernisse

The financial support that you get through the scholarship covered my flight ticket and maybe 2-3 months of accommodation. There might be other grants available in Austria, but I could not qualify for them because I am not an Austrian citizen, but you should check out your 'Bundesland's grants aswell. You need to complete a medical checkup to get the visa which costs around 300 eur, depending on which vaccines you need additionally.

You have to pay your student dorm and some other fees (orientation, insurance, etc), directly through their website. I paid 3000 dollars for the semester (insurance is obligatory, dorm, orientation and lodging during orientation).

13. Können Sie Tipps und Anregungen in Bezug auf Ihr Gastland/ Ihre Gastinstitution in sozialer Hinsicht (kulturelle Unterschiede, Bedeutung von Sprachkenntnissen etc.) geben?

As mentioned above, people tend to be a bit superficial and some of the prejudices about sororities in the US and the big social class differences are very true and real, so be prepared for that. Get involved with people who attend International Coffee Hour and find you people through numerous organisations at the campus (they have over 800!). Especially in the south, Church is a huge thing and even if you are not religious, it is an interesting experience; their churches are indeed something else. There you also find a lot of people who will want to engage with you, help you in any way possible, etc. Also the students have their own ministries that organise trips and help for internationals, and they really are a bunch of lovely people, but it might be a bit unfamiliar to Europeans to hear as much 'God talk' as you most probably will.

14. Gab es während Ihres Aufenthaltes Veranstaltungen, die speziell für Austausch - Studierende organisiert wurden?

☒ Ja ☐ Nein

Wenn ja, geben Sie bitte an, welche:

Soooo many! International coffee hour, trips with ISM (international student ministries), Xchanged life events (an organisation that has multiple events), you will be informed about all of it through email!

UNTERBRINGUNG, SERVICES UND KOSTEN

15. Wo haben Sie während Ihres Auslandsaufenthaltes hauptsächlich gewohnt?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Studierendenheim | <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel / Pension / Gästehaus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zimmer in einer Privatwohnung | <input type="checkbox"/> eigene Wohnung |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wohngemeinschaft mit anderen Studierenden | |

16. Wer hat Sie bei der Suche nach einem Quartier unterstützt?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gastinstitution | <input type="checkbox"/> Freunde/Familie |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wohnungsmarkt | <input type="checkbox"/> Andere: |

17. Wie war die Qualität der Unterstützung der Gastinstitution bei der Quartiersuche?

(1 = schlecht bis 5 = ausgezeichnet)

- ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☒ 4 ☐ 5

18. Wie würden Sie den Unterkunftsstandard einschätzen? (1 = schlecht bis 5 = ausgezeichnet)

- ☐ 1 ☒ 2 ☒ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

19. In welchem Ausmaß waren Hilfsmittel zum Studium (Bibliotheken, Computerräume, Laboratorien und Ausrüstung, etc.) vorhanden bzw. zugänglich?

(1 = gar nicht bis 5 = hervorragend)

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☒ 5

20. Wie war der Zugang zu bzw. die Qualität von Computern und E-Mail an der Gastinstitution?

(1 = schlecht bis 5 = hervorragend)

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☒ 5

21. Ausgaben im Rahmen des Auslandsaufenthaltes (in Euro):

Reisekosten (für einmalige An- u. Abreise): 950 €

Gesamtausgaben pro Monat (inkl. Quartier): 750 €

davon:

Unterbringung	250	€ / Monat
Verpflegung	500	€ / Monat
Fahrtkosten am Studienort	0	€ / Monat
Kosten für Bücher, Kopien, etc.	0	€ / Monat
Studiengebühren	0	€ / Monat
Sonstiges:	see point 12!	€ / Monat

GESAMTBEURTEILUNG

22. Bewerten Sie die Ergebnisse Ihres Auslandsaufenthaltes in akademischer Hinsicht

(1 = schlecht bis 5 = ausgezeichnet):

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☒ 4 ☐ 5

23. Bewerten Sie die Ergebnisse Ihres Auslandsaufenthaltes in persönlicher Hinsicht

(1 = schlecht bis 5 = ausgezeichnet):

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☒ 5

24. Welche Aspekte Ihres Auslandsaufenthaltes haben Ihnen besonders gefallen?

In akademischer Hinsicht:

It is academically rigorous but you get a lot of support if you want to. They have an extensive resource pool for research etc. If you want to read papers that are not free, the library system buy them for you, you just need to request it. The topics are incredibly interesting and well researched. The professors are top people in their fields.

In soziokultureller Hinsicht:

I was tired because the US is not an environment in which I would want to live, but I knew that before coming already. It is draining to me, a bit depressing and overall not a healthy environment for long term. I think their standard of living is very low, but it is a compromise one is willing to make for the academical advancement.

25. Hatten Sie Probleme während Ihres Auslandsaufenthaltes?

Not really

26. Wird sich Ihr Studienfortgang an der BOKU als Folge Ihres Auslands-Aufenthaltes verzögern:

☒ Ja

☐ Nein

☐ Weiß ich nicht

wenn ja warum:

my studies has a limited offer for summer courses, so I am worried I might not be able to complete the required course load in this semester. Also, none of the courses I inquired about at BOKU were possible to be done in online mode. So as a result, I will probably have to study a semester longer.

27. Wie kann der Joint Study – Studierenden-Austausch Ihrer Ansicht nach verbessert werden?

More transparent financial requirements, I was not sure how big of a financial commitment this is going to be, as some fees are not waived.

Allgemeiner Bericht

Kurzdarstellung Ihres Aufenthaltes: Besuchte Vorlesungen, Seminare, Exkursionen, etc.

Anderes Interessantes, Wissenswertes, Schwierigkeiten, Positiva, Empfehlenswertes...

Athens is a lovely community. There are numerous bars, churches and activities one can do in nature. They are big on football and whenever there is a game, the town is absolutely packed and crazy; bars are full, roads are filled, parking lots are barbecue and music spots (it is called tailgating). You get 3 tickets for home football games and you should definitely go to at least one, just to experience that. Alternatively you can also upsell them, there's a bunch of groups on GroupMe for that. All their groups can be found by QR codes on GroupMe, and you will easily find them on campus and people will share that with you on the daily. There is a farm owned by UGA that can be accessed by public transport and then biking, but be warned: a part of the road is kind of scary, because it looks like a highway (it is not though) and there is no lane for bikes + people are not used to having bikers on the road so be extra careful. If you contact people of that farm, they will give you a tour (<https://www.caes.uga.edu/about/personnel/person.html/21952/joey-david-clark.html>). Athens has a few parks and walking paths that are worth checking out. Even if google maps tells you that you can bike somewhere it is not always the case, you have to bike on the main road and that does not feel safe AT ALL but it is doable (I did it multiple times). I recommend using esim card, like the one from mint mobile, pretty affordable. There is also a rescue farm that you can visit with Dogs for the Paws <https://www.instagram.com/dogsforthepaws/> or on your own, but they organise visits every Saturday or Sunday.

Uga also has free musical concerts in the UGA Performing Arts Center, so check that out. Many places offer student discount, so always show your UGA card.

People will be surprised if you walk around places because it is generally thought that that is not safe, however I walked to campus from my dorm (1h away by foot), also during the night and you should be cautious due to the drug abusers and homeless people, but it isn't necessarily dangerous. There is an UGA Safe app as well that helps you contact UGA police quickly if something happens. However, I would say use a bike rather than being on foot, because there are indeed some sketchy places that you do not want to spend too much time dwelling in.

Die zwei letzten Fragen

Was war der größte Gewinn für Sie bei Ihrem Auslandsaufenthalt?

A lot of personal growth because of the struggles that you see people go through on the daily, even if you are not a part of it, dealing with a very different way of life will help you understand the up and downsides of hyper capitalism.

Welchen besonderen Rat können Sie interessierten Studierenden geben?

Be realistic about what you want to achieve, time management is key, do not stress too much and rather experience the community, all the organisations, events and so on, because that is where all of your growth will happen, it is really an exceptional opportunity to explore a bunch of new things like art, religion, sports etc

Herzlichen Dank für Ihre Unterstützung!

Veröffentlichung des Berichts

Ich willige ein, dass der vorliegende Erfahrungsbericht inklusive der oben angegebenen Daten (Studienrichtung, Gastuniversität, Studienjahr, Aufenthaltsdauer) auf der Website der BOKU International Relations zum Zwecke des Informationsaustausches in Bezug auf den Studienaufenthalt veröffentlicht, sodass sich künftige interessierte Outgoings über Ihre Erfahrungen an der Gastinstitution informieren können.

☒ Ja ☐ Nein

Die Einwilligung ist freiwillig und kann jederzeit ohne Angabe von Gründen mit Wirkung für die Zukunft widerrufen werden. Ein etwaiger Widerruf kann jederzeit per E-Mail an jointstudy@boku.ac.at erklärt werden.