

Polyvalenter Zwei-Hauptfach Bachelor Englisch und Biologie, USA, August 2019 – May 2020, University of Wisconsin, Madison, US-2019-i8d30-w

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August 2019 I arrived in Chicago, where I decided to stay for a few days with a friend before coming to Madison on the 26<sup>th</sup>. I came to Madison by bus which was fairly easy and inexpensive in comparison to flying. Before coming to the US, I was pretty stressed about finding a place to live as the university couldn't offer us a place in the dorms on-campus, so I signed a lease for an apartment off-campus which I share with 2 other students. However, my room is pretty expensive in comparison to other accommodations here so if I were looking for a new place again I would have a look on Facebook first I think.

I really enjoyed my first days in Madison; the university offered a few introductory events for all the paperwork regarding the visa and the courses, but also events to get to know other internationals like a photo scavenger hunt or a fair where you could learn about different organizations on campus. Even before coming to Madison most of the organizational stuff like choosing classes for the fall or getting the obligatory health insurance already had to be done, but the university and the team of the international office at UW-Madison was very helpful and answered all of my questions. I think my highlights were the nights on the terrace at memorial union in the first weeks and the days at the lake, the weather was great and I really enjoyed the last days of summer before it got colder.

In the first weeks in Madison the weather was still great so it was really worth it to rent a bike for my way to uni. An organization called red bikes offers free bike rentals for the warm weeks in Wisconsin and Madison is a very bike-friendly city so I would really recommend that! Besides of that, the whole bus system is also free for students so that even now in the more snowy and icy times of the year getting to the university isn't really a problem.

One thing that really stuck out to me in the first weeks was the different way of teaching here in the US. Each week, I had readings and assignments to hand in so that the library soon became a constant part of my week. In addition, professors and the teaching assistants all offered a lot of support in case someone struggled with the material. Another thing that I really like about the system is that all the assignments as well as the exams throughout the semester all count towards the final grade which takes away a lot of pressure in the end of the term and also ensures that students keep revising the material. A typical day with classes begins with breakfast, after that I go to my classes. In the breaks in between classes I like to go to the library to catch up on my readings or meet with friends at one of the dining halls to have lunch. In my first semester at UW I took 12 credits, and in comparison to my schedule in Freiburg it looks somewhat emptier, which is mainly due to the fact that my biology classes didn't have a lab component in the fall term. In the upcoming spring term, two of my courses actually have a practical part as well which I am really looking forward to. Overall, most of my classes fit into my bachelor's program and I learned a lot in all of them, but I especially enjoyed my neurobio

and my educational psychology classes as both of them gave me unique insights into particular fields of biology and teaching. In the upcoming semester I am also taking an art class which I am very happy about as I figured that that would be great opportunity to do something completely different than all the other courses I have had so far.

One of the highlights in the fall is the football games which really show the school pride and the feeling of community at American universities. If you want, you can spend the whole day celebrating, beginning with pre-game tailgating activities and ending with the afterparty. Unfortunately, I didn't buy a season's pass, but for most games the university offers last minute ticket sales in the week of the game for a good price (you have to get up very early though).

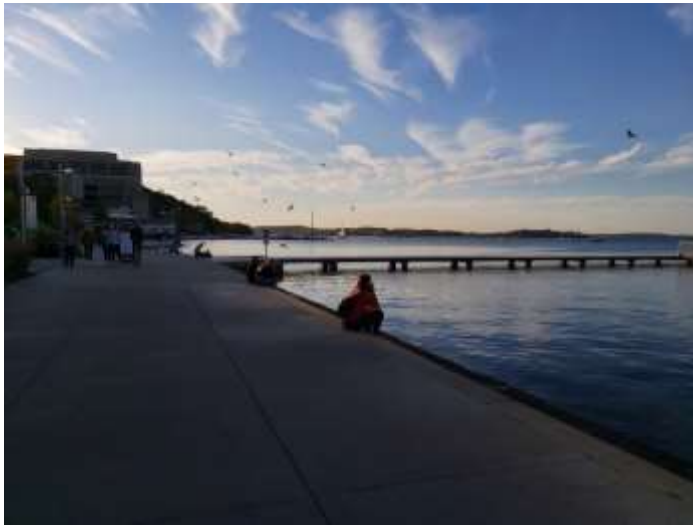
I would say the thing is most, besides of my friends and family, is grocery shopping in Germany, because it is so much more affordable and healthy choices are better. But except of that there are not a lot of things that I really miss. The people here are very open and welcoming towards other cultures and stress the value of equal treatment of all beliefs and people. I enjoyed my first semester here very much and I am looking forward to another term.

### Course Schedule - Fall 2019-2020

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
8 AM		ED PSYCH 326 LEC 001 228 Educational Sciences Sep 04 - Dec 11, 2019		ED PSYCH 326 LEC 001 228 Educational Sciences Sep 04 - Dec 11, 2019		
9 AM						
10 AM			ENGL 318 LEC 001 4206 Helen C. White Hall Sep 04 - Dec 11, 2019		ENGL 318 LEC 001 4206 Helen C. White Hall Sep 04 - Dec 11, 2019	
11 AM			ZOOLOGY 523 LEC 001 272 Bascom Hall Sep 04 - Dec 11, 2019		ZOOLOGY 523 LEC 001 272 Bascom Hall Sep 04 - Dec 11, 2019	
12 PM						
1 PM						
2 PM						
3 PM			ENGL 420 LEC 001 1150 Education Building Sep 04 - Dec 11, 2019		ENGL 420 LEC 001 1150 Education Building Sep 04 - Dec 11, 2019	
4 PM						
5 PM						

## Course Schedule - Spring 2019-2020

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
8 AM						
9 AM			ANAT&PHY 435 LAB 301 2365 Medical Sciences Center Jan 21 - May 01, 2020			
10 AM		ANAT&PHY 435 LEC 001 1111 Mission Humanities Building	9:50 AM to 11:50 AM	ANAT&PHY 435 LEC 001 1111 Mission Humanities Building	ANAT&PHY 435 DIS 801 381 Medical Sciences	ANAT&PHY 435 LEC 001 1111 Mission Humanities Building
11 AM		ENGL 319 LEC 001 4781 Helen C. White Hall		ENGL 319 LEC 001 4781 Helen C. White Hall		ENGL 319 LEC 001 4781 Helen C. White Hall
12 PM						
1 PM		ZOOLOGY 470 LEC 001 188 Redwood Hall		ZOOLOGY 470 LEC 001 188 Redwood Hall		ZOOLOGY 470 LEC 001 188 Redwood Hall
2 PM				ZOOLOGY 470 DIS 301 188 Redwood Hall		
3 PM						
4 PM						
5 PM		ART 176 LAB 001 0155 Art Lofts Jan 21 - May 01, 2020		ART 176 LAB 001 0155 Art Lofts Jan 21 - May 01, 2020		
6 PM		4:45 PM to 7:15 PM		4:45 PM to 7:15 PM		
7 PM						



Lake Mendota

The terrace in summer

Bascom hall

