

Destination: Wright State University
Exchange period: VT 2015

Choice of the destination and courses:

I wanted to go the USA and therefore I chose to go through the central agreement. I started to look at the different available universities in USA and found Wright State which seemed like an interesting university with many different student activities. The location was also a part of my decision. Since Wright State is located pretty close to both Chicago and New York I thought the location was the best of the available universities in the USA. I read about the university and discovered that they seemed to have a lot of different sports teams which is one thing I really associate with the American college life.

The university offers a lot of different courses in many different areas. The only difficulty I found was to find courses that did not include parts of courses I had already taken in Umeå.

Describe shortly the preparation process before the departure:

Book your flight ticket early! It is important to apply for the visa in time since the process can take quite a long time. The limiting factor in your visa application process is that you need to have your DS-2019 sent to you from the Wright State, to be able to get the DS-2019 you need to send a complete application to the university. Don't forget to attach a copy of your passport (I had no information about this and hence my DS-2019 was sent really late).

Contact with receiving institution:

It was pretty hard to get all the information you needed by only emailing the different departments but when I actually arrived to the university they were really kind. You can change classes when you arrive, you can also see a counselor the first couple of days when you arrive. Make sure you have contact with someone at UCIE during your preparation process, they are there to help you out.

Support from Umea University:

I had one contact at the International Office in Umeå and she was really friendly. The only bad thing was the communication between Wright State and Umeå University. Umeå University had not gotten all the right information about what had to be included in my application to Wright State.

Arrival information:

The two first days are orientation days and the different departments and student unions that you might get in touch with during your stay present necessary information. The International Office UCIE is really helpful and do not be afraid to go there whenever you have any question. They can help you out with all kinds of problems and questions.

Accommodation arrangements:

The exchange students are recommended to live on campus. You will get some information about the

process but the information about the housing before you arrive was pretty bad. You will live with a couple of other students and you will have your own room but share the kitchen, the living room and the bath room with your room mates. There will be some furniture (bed, desk, chair and a wardrobe) but you might have to buy kitchenware etcetera. Make sure you get to know your room mates, this is an easy way to make new friends :)

Transportation:

There is walking distance from all the campus housing to the university. You can also walk to the big grocery store Meijers. As everywhere in the USA life is easier if you have a car or have a friend who has a car. There is one bus that goes to a mall but otherwise there is pretty hard to get anywhere without a car. I found it quite frustrating not being able to go to many different places by foot or by bus.

Budget:

The costs of living was higher at Wright State than in Umeå, mainly because the dollar was expensive at the time I was studying. The rent was probably the most expensive part of costs. But you get your gym for free which is good!

Social activities:

The university has a pretty large gym where you can go for free. There are also some classes like biking and dancing classes that you can take for free. If you live on campus there are also a small free gym close to where you live. I really recommend to go to some of the college games; for instance the basket ball games. They are for free and is a really fun experience! The UCIE will offer different activities for the international students that I really recommend you to go to. I really regret that I did not go to that many UCIE events. They offer all kinds of events like ice-skating, free dinner, cultural events and so on.

Recommendation :

I recommend other students to go to the Wright State! All my professors were really good and I learnt a lot. Make sure you anticipate in many different activities and travel a lot!

Practical things to think about:

Make sure you start your application in time and be prepared to be quite isolated around campus. Anticipate in all the different activities you can find and have fun! There might be quite a lot of studying to do but don't study too hard, make sure you have fun and anticipate in many social activities.

General information about academia:

There are a lot more homework and quizzes at Wright State than the Swedish system. There are also mandatory attendance at almost every lecture and you will be able to design your schedule on your own since some classes are given at many different times. You will get a much closer relationship with your professors than you get in Sweden and they are all very kind and willing to help you.

Courses attended

Course 1:

Beginning Chinese (CHI1010):

This class is really fun! You get to know the basics in Chinese speaking and writing. You have small homeworks to do for each lesson. Each class starts with a miniquiz (which is something really small that you have been announced to learn from the previous lecture). There are also some bigger quizzes and at the end there is a final exam in the form of a small prepared presentation. Everyone is a beginner and the class is really small so you will get to know your classmates. The professor Du Haili is really friendly and helpful.

Course 2:

Accounting Principles I (ACC2010):

The basics in accounting (GAAP). There are exercises that you should do after each class. There are also couple of small quizzes, a mid term and a final exam. I learnt a lot from this class and the teacher is really good at teaching! I took the class with Dr. Susan Lightle.

Course 3:

International Financial Management (FIN3210):

I recommend this class. The funniest part of this class was Stocktrack. During the whole semester you get to invest a fake portfolio of \$5 Billion in international stocks, futures, options and funds and follow the results of your and your classmate's portfolios. At the end of the semester you will write a report where you evaluate your investments. Except Stocktrak there was a midterm and a final exam containing options, futures, exchange rates, eurodollar futures, Forward Rate Agreements etcetera. You will also be certified in Bloombergs Essential Training Program.

Course 4:

The Legal Environment of Business (LAW3000):

This is a law course containing the constitution, cases, common law, business torts, criminal law, contracts, employment laws etcetera. There are 8 quizzes, 1 presentation and a final. I found this course pretty time consuming since I had pretty much no knowledge about the American laws before I took this course. Keep in mind that the legal system in USA is pretty different from the Swedish system and therefore you will have to read a lot. But on the other hand; I learnt a lot about the American laws.

Course 5:

Additional Courses:

Did the university provide language courses? Could you receive ECTS points for them? What was your experience of such course?

I did not take any English course but there are courses for non-native English speakers that you can

take to improve your written and spoken English.

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