

My Semester Abroad at UVM (Fall 2019)

How does one describe one of the best experiences they have had so far? Let me start by saying that having chosen to spend a semester abroad is already a decision you will never regret to have made. But especially the exchange program between the University of Augsburg and the University of Vermont is an amazing opportunity to experience studying abroad at first hand.



The atmosphere and campus at UVM are absolutely amazing, with lots of green spots, cafés and places to spend your time. The Office of International Education took great care of its international students, but also everyone working at the Student Center, Residential Life and even the professors were very helpful and on reach 24/7. Living in a dorm with the majority of the international students, alongside the orientation week, where new students get to know the campus, Burlington and each other, made it super easy to build connections and make new friends from the start.

Burlington is a beautiful little town, ideal for students. The streets and main roads have a strong New England-vibe, which makes it very easy to get used to the city's structure and figure out your personal favorite spots. Living in Burlington, you can't miss Church Street, the main strip with tons of restaurants, shops and cafés/bars, but also Lake Champlain. With several beaches and the beautiful Waterfront Park, it is the perfect place to recharge your batteries outside of campus, especially during summer.

Vermont as a state has a lot to offer when it comes to outdoor activities, since it actually still has four seasons. Being called the Green Mountain State, hiking, particularly during the Indian Summer, when the fall foliage is at its strongest, is an absolute must. Several skiing resorts are in close distance, which makes Burlington the ideal place to either improve your skiing skills, or

even try out winter sports for the first time. Other activities include camping, sport events, field trips and many more - both on and off campus.

The proximity of Burlington to other cool places is unbeatable. Cities like Montreal or Boston are very close, as well as a quick trip over or around Lake Champlain can take you to New York State or Canada.

Life on campus was amazing and my classes were interesting and a fun contrast to student life in Germany. I took classes mainly in Linguistics and French, in which the structures were quite different than from what I was used to. Each class is held 2-3 times per week and group assignments, as well as class discussions, are a huge part of every lecture. The workload, depending on the course, might sometimes be slightly heavier compared to what most students have experienced so far, but every professor is trying to vary each task and to make it as interesting as possible, so that it keeps you busy throughout the semester and lets you stay close to the respective topic. However, I never felt that it was too much to handle.

Overall, I had an unforgettable time at UVM. The people I met and became friends with will surely be part of my life in the future, and I was able to build connections all over the world. This gives me the opportunity to visit even more places now. For a study abroad experience, the University of Vermont is a great place to start: 11/10 would recommend.

(Dennis H.)

