

Why did you decide to come to Augsburg for the Summer Program?

I decided to come to Augsburg because I have a strong interest in international law. The program gave me the opportunity to take a deeper dive into European and international law, particularly subjects I had not yet been exposed to in law school. I also really appreciated the opportunity to study these topics while actually living in Europe. Being here gave the material much more context and made what we were learning feel more tangible.

Why do you think it is worth participating in the Augsburg Summer Program?

It is absolutely worth participating in the Augsburg Summer Program because it offers much more than just the opportunity to earn credits over the summer. You get to learn about international and European law from professors with different backgrounds and perspectives while also having the experience of living and studying abroad. The schedule also gave me a great balance between academics and having the time to travel, experience different cultures, and see places I may not otherwise have had the opportunity to visit.

What did you enjoy and like the most about your classes? What did you maybe not like as much or what are your suggestions to do differently?

What I enjoyed most was the enthusiasm of my professors. They were genuinely excited about the subjects they were teaching, which made me excited to come to class and engage with material that was largely new to me. I also enjoyed hearing perspectives on international and European law that were different from what I typically encounter in an American law school.

My biggest suggestion would be to spread out the final exams if possible. All four of my finals were scheduled back-to-back on the same Friday, which made for a particularly intense end to the program. Having the exams split between two days would have made the schedule much more manageable and allowed students to better demonstrate what they had learned in each course.

What did you like about the city of Augsburg, how and where did you spend your free time?

Augsburg was much bigger and livelier than I expected, and I really enjoyed living there. Public transportation is incredibly easy to use, and Augsburg Hauptbahnhof makes it very convenient to connect to regional and ICE trains for travel throughout Germany and beyond. There are plenty of restaurants, cafés, and nightlife options, so there was always something to do. It was particularly fun being there during the World Cup and getting to watch games with people from different countries. I also really enjoyed simply exploring the city and experiencing everyday life in Bavaria.

Where did you travel to? Which destination did you enjoy the most/what can you recommend?

I was able to travel quite a bit during the program, which was one of my favorite parts of the experience. Because I only had classes on Mondays and Tuesdays, I had longer stretches of time available for travel. I visited Neuschwanstein Castle on an Augsburg University-organized trip, which was a lot of fun, as well as Salzburg, Berlin, Lisbon and Sintra in Portugal, Hamburg, and Copenhagen.

I have great things to say about all of these destinations. I especially loved exploring Bavaria because of how beautiful the region is, with its mountains, lakes, and smaller towns. Austria is also incredibly close and easy to reach from Augsburg, so I would definitely recommend Salzburg. My Hamburg and Copenhagen trip was probably my favorite overall. I was able to combine the two cities into one trip, and they were both very different from the places I had already visited during the summer.

How did you find the costs of participating in the Summer Program in terms of participation fees, accommodation, catering and travel expenses?

Overall, I found the costs of participating in the program very reasonable, particularly considering the length of the program and the experience it provided. Augsburg itself was manageable in terms of everyday expenses, and having access to Germany's public transportation system made it possible to travel relatively affordably.

What was the relationship like with the other participants?

Everyone in the program was extremely friendly and welcoming. It was very easy to get to know people, both in class and outside of it, and there was a real sense of community among the participants. Students frequently planned weekend excursions together to places like Salzburg and Prague, so there were plenty of opportunities to travel and spend time together outside of class. I appreciated that you could participate in group activities and trips while still having the flexibility to explore independently when you wanted to.

Any tips for future participants?

Enjoy your classes and take advantage of the opportunity to learn about international and European law, but also make sure you enjoy actually being in Germany. Explore Augsburg, try new things, meet other students, and travel when your schedule allows. The six weeks go by incredibly quickly, so take advantage of the opportunity to experience as much of Germany and Europe as you can.

Do you have any conclusionary words about your time in Augsburg?

Overall, I would highly recommend the Augsburg Summer Program to any law student interested in international law or looking for an opportunity to study abroad. As a part-time evening student in the U.S. who also works, spending an entire semester abroad would not have been realistic for me. I was fortunate to be able to take six weeks off from work, which made this program a much more manageable way to have a meaningful study-abroad experience without stepping away from my job for an entire semester. I came away from the program with a greater understanding of international and European law, but also with experiences and memories from living and traveling in Europe that I will carry with me well beyond law school.