

The summer law program at the University of Augsburg is not only a great place to learn international law but also a great place to meet students from around the world and a great place from which to travel to numerous destinations.

The available courses are taught by a range of international teachers—German, Italian, French, and even American—on a variety of topics. Classes are in English, the world’s current *lingua franca*, which makes it extraordinarily easy for American students to participate.

I took, among other classes, “European and International Law,” a redundancy for Americans, in which I learned how the laws created by the European Union—as well as the case law created by the European Court of Justice—interact with and influence the laws of each Member State. We also briefly focused on the laws agreed to by members of the World Trade Organization (the “International” of the title). The whole class was an eye-opening exercise in the complex interactions of laws on the European level, something most Americans rarely think about, let alone learn. In this ever-shrinking world, everyone needs to be aware of the little differences which matter on a global scale. Every corporation that operates in the EU is going to be governed by these laws and the attorneys who are going to be acting either for or against such corporations need to have a conception of the kinds of laws that they are subject to.

Students in the classes came from Germany, the United States, Poland, and Mongolia, to name just a few. Input during class benefited from this international attendance and the variety of ways in which our different cultures dealt with legal issues. Of course, we also hung out together when not in class and traveled together. The University of Augsburg’s international law program is a great way to promote friendship and understanding among people of different cultures.

Studying abroad in Augsburg also gave me the opportunity to travel throughout Bavaria, Germany, and Europe. Germany is located centrally in Europe and is a great jumping-off point for travel. Having grown up in Bavaria, I spent most of my time visiting places I knew and loved; I had the good fortune of having a roommate who was up for just about anything. Bavaria is one of the most beautiful places on earth and Augsburg is a prime example of it. Although technically in Schwaben (an area inside Free State of Bavaria), Augsburg is one of the oldest cities in Germany, complete with medieval wall, cobbled streets, and buildings older than the United States. Augsburg is, of course, a modern city, and home to many multinational corporations. Modernity is great, but nothing beats a picnic lunch in one of its gardens, formerly reserved for royalty but now open to the public, or an ice cold beer with friends in a *Biergarten* nestled snugly into the old city wall.