

ANGABEN ZUM FORSCHUNGSAUENTHALT IM AUSLAND / ABOUT YOUR RESEARCH STAY ABROAD

Zielland / Destination country: Lebanon	Ort / City: Byblos
Name der Gasteinrichtung / Name of the host institution: Lebanese American University, Byblos	Fakultät / Institut / Faculty / Institute: Department of Social Sciences
Anschrift / Address: LAU Byblos Campus, Office: Block A, Office 803 B, Byblos, Lebanon.	
Zeitraum / Length of stay: von / from : 18/03/2017 (TT/MM/JJJJ – dd/mm/yyyy)	= Tage / Days bis / until: 31/03/2017 (TT/MM/JJJJ – dd/mm/yyyy) 14

Administrative Formalitäten / Administrative formalities

1. Visum / Visa:

a) Welche Art musste beantragt werden? / Which type of visa did you have to apply for?

As a German citizen, one can get a visa on arrival and so I did not apply beforehand. I also did not have to pay any visa fees.

b) Wo haben Sie das Visum beantragt? / Where did you apply for the visa?

At the airport.

c) Wann haben Sie das Visum beantragt? / When did you apply for the visa?

When I reached there.

2. Welche Versicherungen haben Sie abgeschlossen/abschließen müssen und von welchen Versicherungsunternehmen? / What types of insurances did you purchase and from which insurance companies?

My health insurance in Germany covered me there so I did not get any additional insurance.

3. Welche Impfungen waren nötig? / Which vaccines were necessary?

None that I know of.

4. Wie haben Sie Geldangelegenheiten vor Ort abgewickelt? (z.B. über Konto vor Ort, Online-Konto, Kreditkarte usw.) / How did you manage your finances? (e.g., opened a local bank account, online banking, credit card, etc.)

I have a DKB account which is really helpful in withdrawing money for free from ATMs abroad. One really important think to know about Lebanon is that US dollars as well as Lebanese pounds are accepted everywhere. I made the mistake of taking euros in cash. If one takes US dollars in cash that should be good to as they are accepted almost everywhere.

Information & Unterstützung / Information & Support

5. Wie erhielten Sie Informationen über Ihr Gastland, die Gasteinrichtung und die Kontaktperson? Waren die Informationen nützlich? / How did you get information about your host country, host institution and contact person? Was the information useful?

Informationsquelle / Information source	persönlicher Nutzen / useful	
	ja / yes	nein / no
WWU Münster	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gasteinrichtung / Host institution	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Andere StudentInnen / Other students	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internet	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sonstiges (bitte genaue Bezeichnung eingeben) / Other (please specify) My supervisor knew my host professor so that made it easier.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. Erhielten Sie vor und während Ihres Aufenthaltes angemessene Unterstützung durch Ihre Heimat- und Gast-Institution? / Did you receive adequate support from your host and home institution before and during your research stay?

	(1 = sehr schlecht/poor; 5 = sehr gut/excellent)				
	1	2	3	4	5
WWU Münster	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gasteinrichtung / Host institution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Beschreiben Sie bitte näher. / Please describe further.

The host institution provided me with an office, library access but also a student gave me an introductory tour which was very helpful. My PhD supervisor at WWU Muenster was also really helpful and available whenever I needed help. Giving regular reports to my supervisor also helped me set up my aims and served as a trip diary.

7. Welche Vorbereitung auf das Zielland (bspw. Information zu Geschichte, Staatsform, Kultur, Verhalten, Religion etc.) wären hilfreich gewesen? / Which information or preparations in terms of the host country (e.g., history, language, culture, customs) would have been helpful?

Lebanon is not your typical Middle Eastern country so it was different from what I expected. Of course knowledge of Arabic is good and helpful in Lebanon. But in Lebanon, especially the Christian communities spoke French more than Arabic. Lebanon is also quite diverse in terms of religious communities. There is NO ONE Lebanese culture. It is perhaps advisable to read up a bit on Lebanese history and try to understand the Sunni, Shiite and Christian history of the country. Although may be they try not make it apparent to tourists or foreigners but deep divisions along religious lines still exist in the country. It would be good to develop a sensitivity to the differences beforehand.

8. Welche Vorbereitungen hinsichtlich der Gastinstitution (bspw. Hochschulstrukturen, akademische Gepflogenheiten etc.) wären hilfreich gewesen? / Which information or preparations in terms of the host institution (e.g., university structure, academic customs) would have been helpful?

Did not find that difficult to fit in to the academic life in Lebanon. The research tradition there is also quite strong. Just that I do mostly quantitative political science and most scholars there do qualitative political science. But it was nice to share our different perspectives on the Middle East and the applicable methods.

9. Wie kann das Projekt IP@WWU Ihrer Meinung nach verbessert werden (z.B. Information, Bewerbungsverfahren)? / How could the IP@WWU project be improved (e.g., information, application procedures)?

I like the IP@WWU quite a lot. I think the people responsible try their best. But of course if more students go to diverse countries it would be nice to have more perspectives and information on different parts of the globe.

10. Wie beurteilen Sie den Integrationsgrad mit den Studierenden und Mitarbeitern der Gastinstitution? / How do you consider your degree of integration with students and staff in the host institution?

(1 = sehr schlecht/poor; 5 = sehr gut/excellent)				
1	2	3	4	5
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Beschreiben Sie bitte näher. / Please describe further.

I would rate it really highly. They were really interested in my work. We also talked about future collaborative projects. The students were quite interested as well and we had wonderful, long conservations on academics. The international environment made it quite easy to settle at the institution.

Unterkunft & Forschungsinfrastruktur / Accommodation & research infrastructure

11. Art der Unterbringung im Ausland / Type of accommodation abroad:

- durch die Universität (Studentenwohnheim o. Ä.) / university accommodation (e. g., student halls of residence)
- private Unterkunft (z.B. mit einer Familie) / private housing (e. g. family)
- WG / shared apartment
- Sonstiges (bitte genaue Bezeichnung eingeben) / other (please specify)
Youth Hostel

12. Wie haben Sie die Unterkunft gefunden? / How did you find the accommodation?

- WWU Münster
- Freunde, Familie / Friends, family
- Privatmarkt / Private market
- Internet
- Sonstiges (bitte genaue Bezeichnung eingeben) / other (please specify)
A friend who had conducted research there advised me about the accommodation.

13. Wie zufrieden waren Sie mit Ihrer Unterkunft?
How satisfied were you with your accommodation?

(1 = sehr unzufrieden/very dissatisfied; 5 = sehr zufrieden/very satisfied)				
1	2	3	4	5
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Beschreiben Sie bitte näher. / Please describe further.

Quite a lot. The place is called Beirut Hostel run by a non-profit NGO headed by a German woman working with refugee populations in Beirut. One could get a bus to Byblos for \$1 and it took like half an hour.

14. Wie zufrieden waren Sie mit der Infrastruktur Ihrer Gasteinrichtung / How satisfied were you with your host institution's infrastructure:

	(1 = sehr unzufrieden/very dissatisfied; 5 = sehr zufrieden/very satisfied)				
	1	2	3	4	5
Zugang zum Arbeitsplatz (PC, Internet) / Access to working space (PC, Internet)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Zugang zu den Bibliotheken / Access to libraries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sonstiges (bitte genaue Bezeichnung eingeben) / Other (please specify)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Beschreiben Sie bitte näher. / Please describe further.

The internet was good and I had access my own work space; also had access to libraries. Cannot complain about anything.

Akademische Qualität / Academic quality

15. Wie beurteilen Sie die Qualität der Betreuung durch Ihren Gastgeber-Dozenten? How do you rate the quality of your host supervisor's support?

	(1 = sehr schlecht/poor; 5 = sehr gut/excellent)				
	1	2	3	4	5
Verfügbarkeit des Betreuers/der Betreuerin / Supervisor's accessibility	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Engagement des Betreuers/der Betreuerin / Supervisor's engagement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Beratungsgespräche mit dem/der Betreuer/in / Consultations with the supervisor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sonstiges (bitte genaue Bezeichnung eingeben) / Other (please specify)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Beschreiben Sie bitte näher. / Please describe further.

During the time I was there, my host supervisor was really, really busy. But was still available in case of something important. The good thing was I was always in touch with the students there who could help with everything. At the end of my stay had a few fruitful discussions with my supervisor which made up for her scant availability in the beginning.

16. Wie beurteilen Sie die Qualität ... / How do you rate the quality of...

	(1 = sehr schlecht/poor; 5 = sehr gut/excellent)				
	1	2	3	4	5
Ihrer Forschungsaufgaben?/research activities you took?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
des an der Gasteinrichtung zur Verfügung stehenden Forschungsmaterials?/study material you obtained at your host institution?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Beschreiben Sie bitte näher. / Please describe further.

My aim was to gather public opinion on the topic of dissertation. Lebanon is an extremely complex country and two weeks can definitely not be enough. But was able to conduct some really useful interviews and got an understanding of how people think in the country. A piece advice about Lebanon for a social science researcher is that it is probably one the most complex countries to wrap ones head around in the beginning just because it may seem impossible to generalize giving the diversities of opinions there.

17. Wie unterscheiden sich Forschungsstruktur und -kultur an der Gastinstitution von denen an der WWU Münster? / How do research structure and research culture in host institution differ from those at WWU Münster?

Mostly the institutions there are teaching heavy rather than research heavy given the constraints of resources. Therefore professors spend a lot of time teaching. One needs to therefore take that in to account when trying to work with professors there as they might be busy with teaching and administrative activities other than research.

Kosten / Expenses

18. Wie hoch waren die wöchentlichen Lebenshaltungskosten während Ihres Auslandsaufenthalts? / What were average weekly costs during your stay abroad?

Unterkunft / accommodation

€

300

Lebensmittel / food

300

öffentliche Verkehrsmittel / Transportation

300

Lebanon is quite expensive perhaps even more so than Germany, so one has to be quite careful with money there.

Gesamtsumme per Woche / Total per week

€
300
300
300
300

19. Wurden Ihre Kosten durch das Forschungsstipendium gedeckt? / Did the research stipend cover your costs?

Ja / yes

Nein, per Woche habe ich zusätzlich _____ € ausgegeben.

No, I spent additionally _____ € per week.

20. Lagen Ihre wöchentlichen Ausgaben im Ausland höher als in Münster? / Did you spend more abroad compared to what you normally spend in Münster per week?

Nein / no

Ja / yes, _____ €.

21. Mussten Sie irgendeine Art von Gebühren an ihrer Gastinstitution entrichten? / Did you have to pay any kind of fees in the host institution?

Nein / no

Ja / yes, _____ € für / for _____

(bitte genaue Bezeichnung eingeben / please specify)

Persönliche Erfahrungen / Your personal experience

22. Welche spezifischen Ziele hatte Ihr Forschungsaufenthalt? Haben Sie sie erreicht? / Which specific objectives did you have for your research stay? Did you achieve them?

Ziele / Aims:	(1 = überhaupt nicht erreicht/not at all; 5 = voll erreicht/fully)				
	1	2	3	4	5
Maintain a diary for ethnographic data collection using observations from the field, as well as information gained through interacting with the local population.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Give a lecture/seminar on my research at the Lebanese American University and get valuable feedback for my dissertation.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Consult and gain input on dissertation from my host professor and other faculty at the Lebanese American University.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Conduct semi-structured interviews scheduled and with a snowball sample of interviewees.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Develop an understanding for future collaborative research projects with the Lebanese American University.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

23. Wie würden Sie Ihren Forschungsaufenthalt insgesamt einschätzen? / How would you evaluate your research stay in general?

Quite informative and eye-opening. Have been to many Middle Eastern countries before but Lebanon has been the exception. The religious cleavages as well the merging of different cultures makes this place, to say the least, quite interesting. A Westerner could live in the Beirut Christian neighborhood of Geitawi and would feel at home. Similarly a right wing Shia could live in the southern Beirut and feel at home. It definitely opened many questions for further investigation.

24. Bitte beschreiben Sie Ihre beste Erfahrung / Please describe your best experience.

Talking to students from very diverse backgrounds at the Lebanese American University.

25. Bitte beschreiben Sie Ihre schlechteste Erfahrung / Please describe your worst experience.

Getting a sense of the conditions at the refugee camps in Beirut where it seemed to be rife with drugs and poverty.

26. Halten Sie die Dauer Ihres Forschungsaufenthaltes für / Do you consider your research stay to have been ...

- zu kurz / too short
- zu lang / too long
- genau richtig / just right

Falls zu kurz oder zu lang, welche Dauer hätten Sie sich gewünscht? / If too short or too long: which length would have been ideal?

Very difficult question to answer but really depends on what one would like to study.

Beschreiben Sie bitte näher. / Please describe further.

I think a minimal period of two months would be the least to able to gather survey as well as interview data in Lebanon from diverse populations. Just because there is so much heterogeneity in the population.

27. Welche Tipps können Sie den nachfolgenden Promovierenden zu dieser Gasteinrichtung, dieser Stadt, diesem Land etc. geben (Geheimtipps, lohnenswerte Aktivitäten, wichtige Ratschläge)? / Could you please give other PhD students some tips about your host institution, city or country (insider info, useful activities, valuable advice)?

Firstly, Lebanon is quite expensive so one has to be careful about money. The Lebanese American University where I was, as well as the American University are top places to do social science research and are highly recommended. As far as living is concerned, I think for a western Christian individual it would be most comfortable in Christian areas like Geitawi in Beirut. Diverse neighborhoods like al-Hamra in Beirut are also good to live in especially if one is looking for a more international experience. It would be perhaps be uncomfortable to live in Hezbollah dominated neighborhood as those are the most conservative areas. Overall Lebanon is a decent place to do research in the Middle East but has its darker sides too especially when one gets to know the people there more closely.