

# ANGABEN ZUM FORSCHUNGSaufenthalt IM AUSLAND / ABOUT YOUR RESEARCH STAY ABROAD

Zielland / Destination country: <b>The USA</b>	Ort / City: <b>San Marcos</b>
Name der Gasteinrichtung / Name of the host institution: <b>Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education</b>	Fakultät / Institut / Faculty / Institute: <b>Department of Geography, Texas State University</b>
Anschrift / Address: <b>601 University Drive San Marcos, Texas 78666-4616</b>	
Zeitraum / Length of stay: <span style="float: right;">= Tage / Days</span> von / from : <u>18/04/2017</u> bis / until: <u>20/05/2017</u> <u>31</u> <small>(TT/MM/JJJJ – dd/mm/yyyy) (TT/MM/JJJJ – dd/mm/yyyy)</small>	

## Administrative Formalitäten / Administrative formalities

### 1. Visum / Visa:

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

**B1**

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

**Consulate General of the United States, Frankfurt**

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

**March 2017**

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

**Travel Insurance of HanseMerkur**

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

**NA**

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.)

Credit card and cash

### 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?

<i>Informationsquelle / Information source</i>	<i>persönlicher Nutzen / useful</i>	
	ja / yes	nein / no
WWU Münster	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gasteinrichtung / Host institution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Andere StudentInnen / Other students	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internet	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sonstiges (bitte genaue Bezeichnung eingeben) / Other (please specify) Introduction from a Prof. in the US	<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 type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Gasteinrichtung / Host institution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

*Beschreiben Sie bitte näher. / Please describe further.*

WWU Muenster provided preparation seminar for candidates before the trip and useful advise for applying visa. Especially, I got support from Ms. Iva Ognjanovic for clarifying the appropriate type of visa for my trip.  
Regarding host institution, Prof. Muniz gave me invitation letter for applying visa. He help me to find accommodation for my stay in San Marcos.

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?

I have no idea.

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?

Before coming the host institution, I just had personal contact with Prof. there. However, after coming there I knew that it was not enough. The Prof. in the host institution expected to have an introduction about me (or something like that) from Muenster University or my supervisor in Muenster stating that Ms. Thao Nguyen would go to to Texas State University and thank you for your welcoming her.

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 have no idea.

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 checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*Beschreiben Sie bitte näher. / Please describe further.*

- With students: I participated in lectures for undergraduates. I also had meeting with PhD students of Prof. Muniz-Solari. We had chit-chat together.

- With staff: I had meetings with some Professors in the Grosvenor Center. We discuss the prospect for collaboration in the future. Also I connected them to some Professors in Vietnam.

### 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)
- 

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)  
 Prof. Muniz-Solari helped me.
-

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 type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

*Beschreiben Sie bitte näher. / Please describe further.*

There was a researcher from Turkey going to the Department of Geograhly (Texas State University). Prof. Muniz-Solari introduced me to her. We not only shared the room but also many ideas for research. That was such an amazing experience.

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 checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sonstiges (bitte genaue Bezeichnung eingeben) / Other (please specify)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There is free shuttle bus for students.					

*Beschreiben Sie bitte näher. / Please describe further.*

I went to Texas State University in 1 month. I think it was a short time; therefore they could not give me ID number to access to librerly. I was told that the ID would be given in some days when I registered. But it never comes. Although guests can go to library to read something and use the computer, it is limited.

## 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 type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Engagement des Betreuers/der Betreuerin / Supervisor's engagement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Beratungsgespräche mit dem/der Betreuer/in / Consultations with the supervisor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Sonstiges (bitte genaue Bezeichnung eingeben) / Other (please specify) Help me to get engaged with activities in the department.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

*Beschreiben Sie bitte näher. / Please describe further.*

He picked me up at the airport and helped me to set up everything for new life. When the shuttle bus stopped because of the end of semester, I had no way to go the university and he picked me up at home. He gave me books for research. He is very very nice.

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 type="radio"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

*Beschreiben Sie bitte näher. / Please describe further.*

I had chance to share the ideas with some researchers and fellows. We are connecting the ideas and developing prospect collaboration. Probably, there will have joint publications.

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?

I did not see considerable difference between institutions. But I paid attention to the difference in teacher training and geography education in the US and Germany.

### Kosten / Expenses

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

	€
Unterkunft / accommodation	260
Lebensmittel / food	60 - 80
öffentliche Verkehrsmittel / Transportation	10 - 20
other	50
<i>Gesamtsumme per Woche / Total per week</i>	370 - 410

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, 120 €.

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
- Working with the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education on some specific themes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
- Collecting documents on educational policies, curricula, syllabi and geography textbooks of Texas State and documents on Education for Sustainable Development in th	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
- Visiting a secondary school in Texas and observing geography lessons	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
- Participating in the course	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
- Discussion with mentor	<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?

Good.  
 (Some things I expected to do but I could not do, for example, participating in some courses or visiting schools. Because the semester ended, I just had two lessons in the first two weeks. It took time to get permission for visiting schools (about 6 weeks). So, I did not have enough time).

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

The Grosvenor Center wanted to collaborate with research institutions in Asia and Europe. I had a presentation regarding the context of education in my home country - Vietnam and connected them to some individuals in Vietnam. I introduced them to my Prof. in Muenster. I hope there will have collaboration between sides in the future.

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

Public transportation in San Marcos (and in Texas) is not good. My life there was very difficult when I had no car. It was not easy to go to supermarket. Everytime I wanted to buy something, I had to walk 15 - 20 minutes to the bus stop and take shuttle bus to the university and then walked about 15-20 minutes more to go to the closest supermarket.



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?*

**2-3 months**

*Beschreiben Sie bitte näher. / Please describe further.*

For all of my purposes for a research stay in the US, it takes time to get permission to go to schools and observe.

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)?

- Accommodation is the most important thing in San Marcos. A place in Students Inn in the central and near by the university is perfect when you have no car.  
- Choosing an appropriate time for your visiting in Texas State University.  
(I was very lucky when I can find an accommodation in the last minute. However, it was far from the central, especially supermarkets. There was shuttle bus, so transportation was not a matter during the semester. The problem to me was that, I experienced two weeks of semester break and there was no shuttle bus. I almost just stayed at home during the time).