

ANGABEN ZUM FORSCHUNGSaufenthalt IM AUSLAND / ABOUT YOUR RESEARCH STAY ABROAD

Zielland / Destination country: USA	Ort / City: Atlanta
Name der Gasteinrichtung / Name of the host institution: Emory University	Fakultät / Institut / Faculty / Institute: Institute of African Studies
Anschrift / Address: Dowman Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30322, USA	
Zeitraum / Length of stay: = Tage / Days von / from : <u>1.04.2016</u> bis / until: <u>10.04.2016</u> <u>10</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?

Non-Immigrant Visa B1/B2

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

American Consulate in Berlin

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

Beginning of February 2016

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

Family travel insurance from Envivas(TK).

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

Tetanus & Diphtheria, Measles

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 asked my local bank, Deutsche Bank, who have a partnership with Bank of America to open my Maestro card so that I could use it to make withdrawals in America without incurring transaction charges

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 checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gasteinrichtung / Host institution	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Andere StudentInnen / Other students	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internet	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sonstiges (bitte genaue Bezeichnung eingeben) / Other (please specify) By directly emailing the persons at the host Institution	<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 checked="" type="radio"/>	<input 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.

As an international student I would like more support from WWU with regards to visa application processes. Visa applications are costly and tedious. Requirements vary from country to country and sometimes depending on where you come from you end up paying a lot to have a visa finally processed.

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 did not have any problems with this as I am already fluent in English, the language spoken in the USA. I also found the people to be very open and not overly concerned with formalities and it was therefore easy to interact.

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?

I think the WWU research stay documents assume that our host institutions will have similar structures to those in German Academic Institutions. I however found out that in America institutions are quite flexible and they do not concentrate too much on formalities. For instance, my host institution did not have a stamp and they could not stamp my "arrival & departure" form. They told me that they simply did not use stamps anymore. As a suggestion, I would say that when formulating the research stay documentation, the documents should take into account that Institutions have different practices.

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)?

Basically I think the application procedures are fine apart from issues I have raised above on visas and formulation of the arrival departure form. And on this form can you also include a part where we can fill in "extra costs incurred before/after travel" or "general extra costs" because as the form stands now it only asks for extra weekly costs and not everyone might have extra weekly costs although they might have other costs.

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 found the members of staff to be open and very helpful. The members of staff were also very open to ideas of developing working partnerships. I would have loved to interact more with the students but most of them were very busy at the time I was there and I did not get a chance to meet with them.

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)
-

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.

Since I was staying at a place of someone I knew it was easy to fit in and adapt to their schedule.

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 type="radio"/>
Zugang zu den Bibliotheken / Access to libraries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" 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.

I did not necessarily use much of the facilities at the Institution as most of my time was spent conducting face to face meetings. However, Emory university has a very good library with rare books and manuscripts by some of the best authors in the world. They allowed me access to the rare books and manuscripts room with my WWU id.

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 type="radio"/>
Engagement des Betreuers/der Betreuerin / Supervisor's engagement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input 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 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.

This question does not apply to me as I do not have a supervisor at the host institution. However, the members of staff that I met there were very helpful and forthcoming with information.

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.

I believe that I managed to work well and used my time as optimally as I could. Although I lost my first three days because people were not available to meet as it was a weekend, I was still able to catch up on the missed time in the subsequent days and talked to most of the people I wanted. I would have also loved to interact more with graduate students but unfortunately most of them had busy schedules. The Director of Institute of African Studies also shared with me some particularly useful articles which are yet to be published. The articles are really very helpful for my own research and if I hadn't undertaken the research visit I probably would not have come to know about them.

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 found that the Institute of African Studies is very interdisciplinary and literary scholars work in conjunction with historians and french studies. This is quite different with my own set up in the English department at WWU where I work under a chair who is specialized in literary studies. They also don't have chairs and the Institute is headed by a Director.

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	250
öffentliche Verkehrsmittel / Transportation	350

<i>Gesamtsumme per Woche / Total per week</i>	950

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, _____ 76 _____ € für / for _____ conference participation

(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
To establish relationships with other scholars	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
To present my research work and get feedback	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
To interact with other graduate students	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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

My research stay was very beneficial overall. Although I was pressed for time I still managed to accomplish what I went there for. I made new contacts and believe that the relationships that I developed while there will even be beneficial after I complete my PhD. In terms of general organization I will say that the funding that I received was adequate only because I stayed with a friend and I did not have to give her a lot of money in accommodation. Transportation costs are high in Atlanta and public transportation does not cover most areas. Although I tried to live within my means while in Atlanta and did not spend extra in a week there were a lot of other costs that I incurred before actual travelling

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

My best experience was just talking to the people and discussing about literature and about academic issues. I also really cherished the experience of visiting the university's rare books and manuscripts room.

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

My worst experiences - traffic is crazy in Atlanta and they do not have a good public transport network like here in Germany. Everybody drives a car and the roads are so full. You have to leave early to make an appointment. The taxi costs are also high. My other worst experience was finding out that my host institution could not stamp my form because they couldn't remember the last time anyone ever used a stamp in the office.

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?

Beschreiben Sie bitte näher. / Please describe further.

I think the most important skill is to have a plan which you can easily adapt to take into account any unforeseen circumstances that you can encounter. Although I lost the first few days of my planned research stay, I was able to adapt my plans and fit the activities of the first few days into later dates. For example, I was supposed to interview one author during my stay but we could not find a suitable time to sit down for a long interview. We however still met briefly and I got the author's contacts and we agreed that we would have the interview over skype.

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)?

1. Have a plan that you can easily adapt to take into account unforeseen circumstances.
2. Be fully prepared - the host institution will be expecting to hear what it is that you have brought for them and give them a good snippet of your own work.
3. Be open, friendly and confident.
4. Always have information about your own institution handy - the host institution might want to know about the structures, programs, etc at your own home university