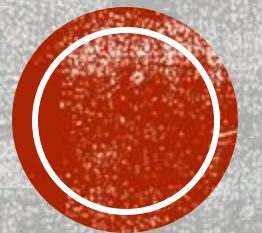




# PERSONAL REPORT ON BETHEL COLLEGE, KANSAS

by Ayse Bayiryüzü





# ACADEMICS

- Bethel College is a small college with only about 400 to 500 students and usually 2 professors for every department. The advantage is that you will have smaller classes and a more intimate relationship to your fellow students and professors. It is totally normal to address your professors by their first names. You can always go in to their office to talk about your classes as well as personal problems.
- There are three terms: Fall, interterm, and spring term. Interterm is only one month in January, where you attend one class. I would recommend to take "fun" classes to relax. I took yoga and audited Kansas history (didn't get a grade). There are also jewelry making classes and other art classes. Every year one or two classes also take a trip to a different country. This year a group went to Mexico and another one to Europe.
- You shouldn't take more than 3 or 4 classes per semester, since you get assignments for almost every session (50 minutes) and you have one course 2-4 times a week. Moreover, you have essays and exams during your class period.



# ACADEMICS

- There are many classes that you won't be able to take at Wuppertal that I would recommend you should take. I took Fiction Writing Workshop, but there is also a Poetry Writing Workshop. It's totally different from all other courses, since it's practical. You write your own short stories or poems and get feedback from other students and Professor Siobhán Scarry. She published her own books, worked for literary companies and has connections to other authors and Publishers. We could even talk to known authors and ask them for tips and help. The College also has its own literary magazine, and you can take a class where you are part of the editorial team. You can take the "Editing and Publishing Internship" as a class at Dzanc Books.
- For those who are interested in history. I took the History of the Holocaust class and attended a 2-day conference about it, where researchers from all over the world came to present and find new theories.



# PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

- I personally am convinced that you will gain more on the personal aspect with a small college like Bethel College. I met a lot of amazing people, who became family. During class periods as well as breaks I spent a lot of time with my friends and their families. You can also apply for a host family, who help you through your time and invite you to spend time together. Ted and Berneil Mueller is also an older couple, who will help you a lot even before you arrive and might make small trips with you.
- A big highlight for me was the M2 program with the Offender/ Victim Ministries. You can visit inmates of the Hutchinson prison, where you and another student get paired with an inmate who does not have visitors once a month. I can guarantee that you will gain a lot of important experience that you will not be able to gain ever again. The inmates are carefully chosen, and there is a lot of people and security in the room, so there is no need to be scared. You will learn a lot from their stories! If you are interested you can contact the coordinator Benjamin Kreider, who is also going to present the program.



# FINANCES

- You can apply for Auslands-Bafög even if you do not get it in Germany. Moreover, you should apply for Promos and get about 2.400 Euros at once for your stay and might even get your travel expenses paid if you can score well with your application. Important is also that you can get your semester ticket refunded by the Asta, which makes up most of the semester fee. **HOWEVER**, it is important for you to do it before you go abroad, because it does not work retrospectively.
- You will need to pay 100+ for your student visa and SEVIS, which you can get at the embassy in Frankfurt. You also need to get a health insurance. At Bethel you will need to pay 1.000 or 2.000 dollars (not euros) for the year, depending on how long both American students stay at Wuppertal. This fee includes a whole meal plan at the cafeteria as well as your accommodation expenses.
- Regarding the financial aspect, Bethel is the cheapest alternative, and everyone should be able to afford it. So, you do not need to worry about money. I could even save money to travel around after classes.



# PERSONAL TIP

- From my own experience, I would strongly recommend to stay **AT LEAST 2 weeks** after college ends. I can assure you that even if you will not travel, you will want to spend more time with your friends. I first booked my flight ticket for the week after classes ended and changed it later to leave a month later, but had to pay extra 300 euros to do so. I would also arrive a few days before classes start at Bethel.
- For any questions you can contact me via [ayse.bayiryuezue@uni-wuppertal.de](mailto:ayse.bayiryuezue@uni-wuppertal.de).

