

My semester abroad at the University of Michigan-Flint, USA



From the beginning of September until the mid of December 2014 I spent a semester at the University of Michigan in Flint and I had an unforgettable time there. This university has a lot to offer. It was founded in the 1970s and around 8,600 students are currently enrolled at UM-Flint. Additionally, a growing number of international students from around 40 different countries attend this University.

During my semester abroad, I studied at the university and also did an internship at the *ELP* (English Language Program). This is a particular English program designed to develop international students' skills in reading, vocabulary, writing, grammar, and speaking for academic purposes. In the course of my internship there, I was predominantly assisting and teaching the courses "Listening and Speaking 4" and "Reading and Writing 3". So I designed and gave lessons myself, helped grade tests, created handouts, and gave tutoring lessons. Furthermore, I assisted in several *ELP* activities, such as the "International Day of Peace Parade", in and the "Lansing Capital Tour". All the colleagues at the *ELP* were very friendly, helpful and made me feel welcome.

In a nutshell, the internship was quite beneficial to my development as a future teacher because I was able to acquire and improve many relevant competences and skills, such as e.g. teaching skills as well as communicative and mediation competences.

Another reason why it was a unique experience to me is that most of the students that attend this program come from Saudi-Arabia, China and Mexico. So except from all the different competences listed above, I could also develop my intercultural competence.

Moreover, I felt also fortunate to attend a course at the University of Michigan-Flint. I was

amazed by how small the group size of my seminar was (4 students). Since I was the only international student in my course, the professor sometimes asked me to make comparisons to several corresponding aspects in Germany, which I found very interesting.

During my leisure time, I attended the university choir, went to different student activities organized by the university and explored also a lot of beautiful places in the Michigan region: Hence, I went e.g. to Ann Arbor, Detroit and East Lansing. The state of Michigan has a lot of great places to offer that should be definitely visited!

As a result, I would like to point out that I strongly recommend spending a semester abroad at the University of Michigan-Flint. It was a very important experience to me since I could develop especially my teaching skills and my intercultural competence. It was also of interest to compare the German study programs and teachers with the American ones. Moreover, thanks to the internship and the studying experience I could improve my English a lot.

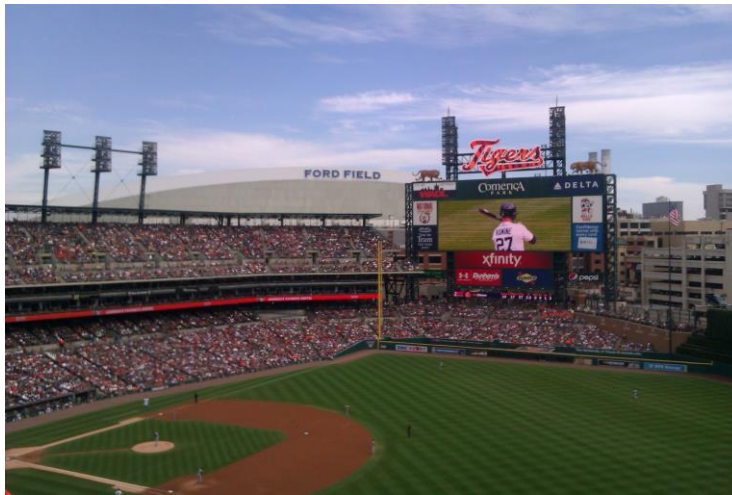
All in all, I enjoyed staying for a semester at the University of Michigan in Flint. I am very grateful for the valuable and positive memories of the time at that university.

University of Michigan-Flint



University of Michigan, Ann Arbor





Tiger
Stadium, Detroit

If you have any further questions concerning the University of Michigan-Flint, feel free to contact me and I will be happy to help you!

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