

# Field Report (10.2018-01.2019) Chao Wang

The experience at the University of Illinois at Urbana and Champaign (UIUC) was great. Comparing to Montanuniversität, the university is a much larger public one, which has over 49,000 students. As its name says, the campus is divided between the twin cities, Champaign and Urbana. A street in the middle of the campus is the border of the two cities. In my case, the office of my host supervisor and our laboratory are at Urbana side, however, my office is at the other side of the street, which belongs to Champaign. I firstly noticed this from my cellphones weather app. The university is listed as a public Ivy. It is famous for Engineering and Accounting. UIUC was ranked 45<sup>th</sup> place in the world, regarding my field, Material science and mechanical Engineering were ranked 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> in the USA 2018. The university is very international and there are many international students. Due to this, many international restaurants, friseur and supermarkets are around the campus. This makes the campus life much easier. For lunch, you can not find an university cantina, small ones are bonded to the student dormitories. Otherwise, around the campus, various restaurants offer delicious foods with international tastes, from American fast food, Mexican tacos to Jerusalem kosher. On the main street, called Green Street, you can find various restaurants, bars.

To do some exercises, the University has two recreation centers, the ARC and the CRCE, with extensive facilities, where you can join the group fitness lessons, do swimming in-door or out-door or wall climbing or simply go to the gym. ARC (Activities and Recreation Center) is really a huge sport center, about the double size of LCS, is so-called one of the largest recreation center on campus in USA. You can find almost every kind of sports, even there are in-door running tracks. Additionally, using the gym is free for students, but as visiting student it costs around 50\$ per month for the membership.

In the area of mechanical Engineering, every week a professor from other universities will be invited to give a talk and share their new ideas about their research. To Christmas, three professors has organized a big party, all group member and their spouses were invited to a professor's place.

The public transportation in the twin cities are very good. As a member of the university, no matter you are student or professor, the buses are all free.

For a three months stay, it is actually not easy to find an affordable place. I was lucky, have found a room (in a 4b4b-apartment, 4 bedrooms with 4 bathrooms) in a private student dormitory (Atrium) before my departure. Generally, the dormitories rent their rooms only for a whole semester. It seems that all bedrooms in the dormitories has a bathroom. Therefore, only kitchen and living room were shared.

Safety is an important issue in USA. Champaign and Urbana are both small cities with a large student population. Hence, around the campus it is quite safe even at night and also buses run overnight.

All in all, I am really like my time there and I highly recommend UIUC for exchange students from Leoben, especially from engineering area. A famous university with a relatively low life expense but a convenient life and good safety situation.

Chao Wang, 27.01.2019.