

# Global Exchange: Final Report

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Fall 2023

Degree program in Freiburg: MSc. Economics

Classes taken during the exchange: Applied Time Series Analysis, Applied Econometrics, Labour Economics and Python

I only stayed one semester at the University of Massachusetts. The orientation days for internationals were very helpful, as we got a lot of useful information and met other internationals. There were a lot of people from Baden-Württemberg.

Although I first wanted to take more computer science courses, I was glad that I ended up in the economics faculty, as it had mostly PhD students and it is a heterodox faculty, so it was very different to Freiburg.

Luckily, I found housing before arriving to Massachusetts. I was staying in a student dorm off-campus in a very good location between the town center and the campus. My dorm was the main highlight of my experience. I lived in Jewish community during my stay, and I really tried to be an active member of the community. I attended a Tora course every Wednesday, went occasionally to shabbat and participated in almost all holidays. Living in a Jewish community after the 7<sup>th</sup> of October also was at times very hard. The community was devastated, and we were very scared about our safety and the one of other Jewish students on campus. So, I think the best and the hardest experience was living at a Jewish community after the terrorist attacks in Israel. I really liked being part of a community, nobody tried to convert me or change who I was, and I always felt welcome. My classes and the approachability of the professors was also very important.

At first, I applied for UBC in Vancouver because it is my favorite city and as a teenager, I had spent some time there. I really did not want to go to the USA, as I have never had interest in going there and I am very critical of the lifestyle there and the large inequality. However, I am glad that I ended up going to Massachusetts as my experience was better than all the expectations and prejudices that I had of the USA. The organization from both the side of Freiburg and the university abroad was good. I could communicate anything with the organizer in Freiburg and she was very responsive and helpful.

What I liked most about Massachusetts are the people, the beautiful fall, and the Jewish community. I liked the least the expensive housing prices and food prices and maybe also that without a car it is difficult to travel.

I would say as a practical tip start looking for housing early and try to find your own community in Massachusetts, it will add towards your experience.

I really am very helpful for the international office for organizing and all the smooth communication. I felt safe and supported at all times although being very far from home.