

Evaluation for ScanDesign Foundation

I wanted to go to the states to study because I wanted to try to study in another country and I wanted to improve my language skills. I feel like it was kind of destiny that I ended up in Madison, as it was my third choice and I didn't know anything about it before hand. I chose the university because of a program in museum studies that I wanted to follow. I didn't make a lot of arrangements before my departure; I found a place to live, from which I moved after only spending two nights there – because it didn't match my expectations. I would highly recommend trying to get a room in one of the co-ops (especially the international co-op) because it is a great way to meet people and it is cheap and fun – but you have to apply really early on to get in – which I didn't. I would also highly recommend spending the first few days at a host-family; it is one of my biggest regrets that I didn't use that opportunity. Otherwise there is a great hostel near the capitol were you can stay while finding a place to live – I wouldn't recommend finding a place before coming to Madison, unless it is in a co-op! I lived in the Willy St. area with one Dane and two Americans. I really loved the area at lake Monona and all the small cafes and restaurant and hippies that lived there.

I think it was really nice to have ScanDesign when we arrived in Madison and both Julie and Karen did a great job making us feel welcome in Madison. In comparison to Denmark the teachers and the university nurse you a lot more and I was overwhelmed by all the care we received from both teachers and the university in general, which made Madison a very safe and great place to stay.

The university is of course very big and covers a large area, but my institute was located in the center of Madison, close by lake Mendota, which was great, when you have to spend many hours a day in the library studying, with the most beautiful view.

There are lots of activities to join in on – hoofers outdoors club, the gym “SERF” – which is free, lots of great bars, cafes and restaurants, Orpheum Theater on State Street - where it only costs 6 dollars to watch a movie, and all sorts of different events on campus, arranged by students.

There are many cultural differences and I will just recommend being respectful and curious, and sensitive in handling them...

The ScanDesign scholarship made a big difference because it enabled me to travel after school was over. We received the scholarship quite late so it influenced my decision to stay and travel for a month after the finals were over and experience more of the states than I would otherwise have been able to. ScanDesign also made a huge difference with all the fantastic experiences we were given – the welcoming picnic, football and baseball games, pumpkin/hayride, canoeing and skiing trip, dinners and so on.

I spend 330 \$ on rent and probably about 200 \$ on food a month – I also spend 65 \$ on a bike, which pretty much was my only vehicle of transportation in Madison.

The experience was really great and I would recommend it to anyone who is considering studying abroad! It has improved my language skills, giving me inside in a different culture and it has been very interesting to study in another country far from home!

My only comment to the great work of ScanDesign is that you should try to integrate the old “fellows” with the new ones. Maybe make a “friendship” program in both Denmark and America, so it will be possible to meet locals, and not only people from your home country through the program. It would have made sense for us to get to know the Americans who were going to Denmark, so they could show us around in Madison and we could stay in touch and show them around in Denmark....

Sincerely,

Sara Line Batson