

## Report

LLM European Economic Law and LLM International Business Law

University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School

Spring Semester 2018

Courses taken: Introduction to American Law, Constitutional Law I, Business Organizations, Law of Democracy (24 ECTS)

Madison is a wonderful student town located in the heart of Wisconsin – famous American “Dairy Land”. Campus is situated on a Bascom Hill, right by the lake Mendota, giving students a great view when studying in the library, or having lunch with friends at the Memorial Union. It is a perfect place for those who are looking for a truly American experience, whilst living in a vibrant but peaceful town.

During my spring semester there, I had a pleasure to take four challenging courses, worth the equivalent of 6 ECTS each. One of them was Introduction to American Law, which I would recommend to everyone, especially those having no previous experience with American jurisprudence. My next choice was Constitutional Law, which required plenty of reading, getting involved in stimulating discussions and learning a big chunk of American history. I was attending classes taught by professor Quaraishi-Landes, who showed me unbelievable kindness and patience when I shared with her that it is my first encounter with American Law. The third course (and the most difficult one due to the workload) was Law of Democracy with professor Yablon, who is impossible to dislike, and has probably close to unlimited knowledge on the voting processes, districting problems and campaign financing. My last choice was Business Organizations, which provided me with basic but very important knowledge on partnerships, limited liability companies and corporations. The recommended amount of credits per semester here is the equivalent of our 24 ECTS, which everyone who is applying needs to bear in mind, since in the Netherlands it is usually 30 ECTS.

The law exchange coordinator, Ms Atapattu, is extremely helpful and answers to all the inquiries in a very speedy and efficient manner. She has a lot of experience with international students and is always willing to lend a helping hand.

Travelling around Wisconsin is impossible without a car, but there are plenty of options. Many students have their own vehicles, which can be bought very cheaply comparing to Europe. Otherwise, there is a possibility of either renting a car or registering your driving license with Zipcar: a company which allows you to access cars all over the city for a good student rate. Travelling around the USA is possible either by taking a bus or taking a domestic flight from a local airport. Madison is about the same size as Groningen, but for those who love big cities, it is very easy to get to Chicago, which is only two hours away.

Accommodation is relatively easy to find, and the best medium to do so is probably craigslist. Prices of rent and living expenses are very similar as in Groningen, but one needs to be ready to spend a large sum on books (around 800 dollars for used books for my 4 courses) and obligatory

university medical insurance (around 500 dollars). On top of that there are of course expenses related to getting a visa, which can amount to over 300 dollars. It is possible for Europeans on J or F visas to work on campus up to 20 hours a week, but it can be quite challenging due to the workload at the Law School.

Madison is a great town, full of extremely kind and hard working people. It is very cold in the winter (around -15 or -20 degrees Celsius), but immensely hot during the summer, with autumn and spring being basically non-existent. The city has amazing infrastructure for cyclists and is full of paths for running and skating. There are also hundreds of gyms and yoga studios. Adding multiple places with delicious coffee and craft beers to this mix, it is quite impossible to be bored here.

Since I liked it so much, I applied for the Academic Enhancement Program, which allows J visa students to prolong their stay once they are given a job or internship related to their studies. I got hired by my Constitutional Law professor to help her with preparing a new course for the spring semester 2019. It is a great opportunity for those who are thinking about staying in academia or are looking to expand their knowledge even further.

Without a doubt, I would recommend Madison to anyone who is interested in getting acquainted with American law, culture and style of life. It is a safe and exceptionally pleasant place, which will surely expand your horizons.