

Personal Statement Muster

One reason for my application is that I hope to be given the opportunity to be able to live in Bethany as one of the student there, to study there like all the others, not being defined to the role of a tourist or a visitor. I think it is important not to simply look at the superficiality of a cultural appearance, but to try to experience it.

Through the contact with my American friends I am aware of the differences between the German and the American education at colleges and universities and I also realize that life in Bethany must be very different from life in Heidelberg. But I do not see this as an obstacle; as a matter of fact, I think it is an interesting challenge. The discovery of more and more parts of a different culture, of a different 'frame of thinking and living' fascinates me very much. My experiences as an exchange student in Atlanta in 1986/87 and close friendships with Americans have made me want to continue this discovering, to explore and reflect the intricate parts of the American way of living.

In reference to my English, I can say that I feel very comfortable in this language. Mainly through letters and further visits to the States in 1989 and 1990, the once built up ability to express myself in English has been kept alive. Private reading and the lecture of books and texts which were connected with my classes at school and at the PH, where I started to study English in spring 1990, also broadened my comprehension of a more distinguished written language and increased my vocabulary. Thus, I am quite confident the English language would not hinder my participation in the classes. At the same time, a year in Bethany would also give me the chance to further improve my English.

Concerning my education, the opportunity to intensively study American literature, in which I am very interested, is a great attraction because the literature of a country subtly reveals many parts of the cultural background. Somewhere between history and literature I also want to find the topic for my 'Zulassungsarbeit'. A stay in the USA would surely offer a lot of helpful material and thus a great access to the chosen subject, maybe inspired by a class or by a probable experience at Bethany.

To summarize, the chance to study in Bethany would surely be a self-fulfilling experience, both in the academic and personal level.

Date,

Signature