

A year at Tulane University in New Orleans - The crescent city.

New Orleans or short “Nola,” is a special place and most definitely different to most cities in the US. This past year was certainly an experience I will not forget too quickly. What I miss most are the people, the delicious creole food, and the extraordinary jazz music that sounds from almost every café or bar in the French Quarter. New Orleans has a lot to offer and this city is most definitely never boring.

Planning a budget is rather hard. The US in all aspects is pricier than Germany. It is something you have to accept, but as long as you keep count and know how much money you want to spend, you should be fine.

It is probably smartest and easiest to live close to campus. It should not be too hard to find a house/apartment with flat-mates close by. “Tulane Classifieds” is a Facebook group that should get you started. I would try to live off campus with flat mates. You will get to know different people and getting sucked into the Tulane “internationals” bubble is very easy.

Everybody will tell you to get a bike, which sounds like a great idea, however, the streets in Nola are not the best and you will have to expect some flat tires and bumpy roads. It still is a good investment, because you can never truly depend on the street-car, or the busses. They will come, but they are never punctual. Thankfully, “uber” exists.

Getting a bank account started is easy, but if you are planning on doing some travelling I would choose a bank that has branches all around the US. Make sure to have your passport and Tulane documents with you, as you will need them to activate an account.

The Tulane bus will take you to all the supermarkets on the weekends, which is much cheaper than taking an Uber or Lyft. Unfortunately, the supermarkets are a little far off, if you live close to campus.

My main focus of study was History. Tulane has a great history department. I have had some of the best courses and professors at Tulane. The professors were extremely attentive and helpful,

and the courses were informative and interesting. Professors take their time to help you and advise you. It was truly a great academic experience.

Tulane has an interesting campus life. Make sure not to miss craw fest and other fun campus events. But as mentioned before, it is easy to get sucked into the Tulane/Uptown bubble and there is much more to do and see than the campus and its nearby surroundings. New Orleans is such a diverse and exciting city. Try to see as much of it as you can, and don't miss out on all the tourist attractions, they are most definitely worth seeing. Take a stroll through the Audubon Park or the sculpture garden next to the Museum of Modern Art. Take the street car to the French Quarter and walk along the Mississippi river. Go on a swamp tour and watch the sunset at the fly.

People in New Orleans are friendly and especially at Tulane I had a great experience. People at Tulane and at the OISS (Office of International Students and Scholars) were always helpful and accommodating.

Now, some final tips for your stay in New Orleans. One of my personal favorite restaurants was 1000 figs, which serves Middle Eastern food, and if you are coming from Berlin, I'm sure you will miss it. But the most amazing place is Bacchanal. It is a bar/restaurant with live music. Unfortunately, it is a little far off, however it is worth every Uber/Lyft ride.

Make sure to catch some beads at Mardi Gras and to check out Frenchman street. Another must do is enjoying a coffee or another drink at Rue de la Course. This café is close to campus and a great study spot. In general, there are a lot of great restaurants or interesting historical sights to visit.

My year at Tulane University was a great opportunity, not only because it was a great academic experience but because New Orleans is an incredible city, full of charming people, good food, and excellent music.