

Reporting my first month in the University of Wisconsin – Madison/USA: Doutorado Sanduíche

I have been living here in Madison for approximately one month and if I would need to come back now this experience already has been amazing. However, I have more four months and I intend to take advantages of all the opportunities.

Even though I arrived at University during the summer vacation' period, many activities are being offered to students and scholars. I have already had the opportunity to attend classes of Anthropology & Education and in the next couple of weeks I will participate in another summer course called "Problems of American Racial and Ethnic Minorities". These courses are helping me a lot to develop my work here.

My faculty host, Professor Gloria Ladson-Billings is supporting my studies and I am going to have classes with her in the fall semester. Professor Thomas Popkewitz has included me in his group of research and I am going to take part in his weekly seminar. Furthermore, as a short-term scholar, I can attend every class that I think is important and check out lots of books at the many libraries available. Without doubt, the University of Wisconsin is an amazing place to study.

I am meeting awesome people here. Living in an international community (inside the University), I have the opportunity of being with people from many countries. Madison is a wonderful place to live. The high quality of life here is something important and cultivated for all. A good way to enjoy the summer is bike riding next to Lake Mendota and watching the presentations at Wisconsin Union Terrace.

In regards to the English language, I believe that I am doing well. We can travel to the USA just with basic English knowledge, but in order to attend classes and to follow the discussions we need

at least an intermediate English language level. The most challenging situation is expressing my thoughts in front of my colleagues. I also realized that we need to be courageous and to speak with people. Speaking by e-mail or in person is the best way to open new opportunities.

Related to Education, I am surprised with many things that I am studying here. In Brazil, we don't access many information about public education, educational reforms and racial education of the USA. Without a doubt, I will come back in November with new thoughts and learning to share.

I could not finish this report without some acknowledgments. My team is excellent and I am very grateful. My advisor, professor Elí Henn Fabris and other professors, the secretary and the head of the Graduate Degree Program in Education, the International Relations office, the Unit of Research and Graduation Degree, everyone that has helped so much for the internship to become possible. I also thank Capes to make accessible the scholarship.

I desire infinitely that my experience being a reality for many youth researchers of our country.

Viviane I. Weschenfelder
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