

USA tour med mera Utbildning

*Denna text är ett komplement till produkten "USA tour med mera" (Specialpedagogiska institutet 2004).
Texten motsvarar helt den engelska texten i den aktuella delen av programmet.*

Gallaudet

Gallaudet University is a school for the deaf in Washington D.C. Many Swedes have studied here. Some will tell us about the university.

I thought it would be more like Sweden's people and culture. I knew that the language and environment would be different. It wasn't hard. Well, it was hard to learn American signs at first. But the culture is different. People socialize in smaller groups. People in Sweden stick together more.

You have to take the initiative or you won't get to know anyone. They won't know who you are. Well, you have to be persistent. Then you'll make the right friends and find out what they're doing and get involved that way.

Gallaudet was nothing like I had expected. I thought it would be more like American TV shows where everything is so big, but Gallaudet is small. There were more deaf students than I expected, but that's only natural.

I've heard that there are 2,000 students here.

I'll stay until I graduate if I can, then I'll go back to Sweden. But you never know, I love it here. Home is always home, and it's in Sweden. But as my dad said if I get a job, I may stay for a few more years. But I'll probably return home after that.



I love drawing, it's my hobby. My other classes, like art history mean more lectures and studying. I can draw and unwind afterwards. I draw for three hours on Thursdays.

If you come here alone, you have to be brave and even have attitude. You have to test the limits and not be afraid to try things. You learn from your mistakes. If one thing didn't work like for a test, you've still managed to learn something. You're here to learn and have fun.

The campus area includes the school and clothing stores and a bookstore, if you need a special textbook. You can buy postcards and other things, and there's a travel agency. The employees are deaf so it's easy to communicate and the police know sign language. It's a campus policy. Not everyone's fluent, but enough to communicate. What else is there ... Oh, there's a bank, too. There's the bank, police, stores ... Plus a clinic for deaf students.

