

ILAYDA USTUNEL

Hello, my name is Ilayda Ustunel. I applied Northwestern from Ankara. I studied at Bilkent Laboratory and International High School. I applied to NU through Early Decision and now I am double majoring in Economics and Computer Science in WCAS.

WHY NU?

The main reason I chose NU is that besides being a top-notch academic institution, it has a balanced and dynamic social life. Something that you can see in every student at Northwestern is that everyone is academically driven and successful but at the same time you can really experience the "American College Life". The school spirit is amazing. That's why I really thought that I was a good fit and I wanted to study at Northwestern. In addition to the balanced life at Northwestern, the location is perfect. The campus is beautiful. Just next to the campus there is Lake Michigan and we are only 15 min away from Chicago. So while you can experience the American campus life, you can go to Chicago in 20 min by taking a shuttle. The cultural activities at Chicago are incredible. Let it be museums, concerts, musicals, or art galleries everything is amazing. Let alone Chicago is a great city where you can have an awesome time. That's why Northwestern was a great fit for me.

CAMPUS

The NU campus is amazing. I visited 4-5 universities while taking college tours, and Northwestern was by far the most beautiful one. You can see a variety of architectural buildings in the campus. For example there might be a very modern building and just next to it you can find a historical building from the 18th century. When you arrive at the campus, the first thing you'll notice is that it is divided into two: South and North. South Campus is where most of the social science, humanities/art students go to classes at and North Campus is where mostly engineering students have their classes. But the two areas are in fact connected and transportation is very easy. The size of the campus is very ideal. It takes approx. 15 min to walk from one end to the other end of the campus. During the winter if you don't want to walk due to the cold there are shuttles that can take you from one end to the other in less than five min. The most beautiful place in campus is probably the Lake Fill. It's incredibly beautiful. You can see students sunbathing on the rocks along the shore, playing volleyball, playing frisbee, or reading books during the Spring and when you walk towards the South you can see the Chicago Skyline. I like Lake Fill the most.

STUDENTS

If you ask me to describe NU students in one word, I would say balanced. I've never in my whole life been surrounded by so many people who are incredibly driven to succeed academically while at the same time being socially balanced, and culturally aware. Everyone's priority is to work hard and have a successful academic life but they also give importance to play hard and have fun. Other than this, there is great diversity in hobbies and I think this creates a great college atmosphere. While having lunch with someone who goes to his tennis practice every morning, you can also meet someone who is directing the play she has written. There are people who are

engineers or athletes and people who are interested in music or art. This creates a diverse educational environment.

EXTRACURRICULARS

Northwestern provides a great platform for students to find their passions and meet with others who share the same interests as they do. During the orientation week there is an activities fair which lasts for almost a whole day. In the fair, over 500 student organizations promote their clubs. If you want to be a member of a particular club you give them your e-mail address and then the application process begins, which lasts for approx. a week. First there is a written application and then they call you to an interview. The organizations range from cultural clubs to preprofessional, athletic, or artistic ones and anybody can find something they are interested in. Currently, I am a part of three clubs: ISBE, ISA, and TSA. For example, in ISA we have weekly meetings. We meet as the international community and talk about ways in which we can strengthen the presence of the international community at NU. ISBE consists of more preprofessional activities like industry research, internship opportunities, and resume writing. TSA unites the Turkish community at NU. These types of clubs provide a great social resource in addition to academics. It's GREAT!