

We are all
made of stories

Americans of Tübingen: *Ted and Victoria*

“We (Victoria and Ted) come from the dusty foothills of the Rocky Mountains in Colorado. We both grew up around the Denver area, and met when we were in the 2nd grade. We went to the same elementary, middle, and high schools, and have been best friends since 10th grade. It has always been a shared dream of ours to move to Europe someday. We share a passion for history and art, and spent our childhood fantasizing about our future in a ‘medieval’ city. We started university in Colorado at the same time: Victoria studied Art History and Ted studied History. After Ted completed one year of his bachelors, he chose to spend a year as an Au Pair in Germany to learn the language and get to know which areas he liked best. He worked for a family in Mötzingen, and quickly fell in love with the Baden-Württemberg region. During that year, he visited Tübingen and knew he would work as hard as he could to go to graduate school in this charming little city where everyone seemed so happy and carefree. He was given the opportunity to stay in Germany after his Au Pair visa was set to expire, but decided that he would return to the USA and marry his childhood sweetheart. We got married, saved up as much money as we could, and moved to Germany when we were finished with our bachelors degrees. We both worked more than full time at multiple jobs while juggling full time University enrollment. It was a challenge, but we skipped out on the college parties, coffee dates, and movie nights to save for our dream of moving to Tübingen. We lived in the cheapest accommodations we could find during our bachelors, and commuted two hours each way back and forth on buses to our classes. During that time, Ted also came out as transgender. Living our most authentic lives further motivated us to do whatever we could to achieve our dream!



Now that we are here, we feel like we are living in a dream: our lifetime goals have come true, and every morning when we sip our coffee and eat our *Laugenbrötchen* and hear the church bells rolling over the hills, we know that our hard work has paid off in more ways than we could have imagined. We have found a thriving little community nestled in the steep hills, and Ted does not have to deal with medical discrimination, or condemnation from the government for living authentically. In pursuing our American Dream, we found true freedom in Germany. Tübingen is our home, and we feel fully accepted and loved here. We love the international population that is constantly fluctuating; it keeps a relatively small town fresh, open-minded, and diverse. We love how we can pursue our love of nature on a daily basis, with hiking trails just minutes from our doorstep. In every regard, we feel like we have found the true beginning of our future.

Ted is currently in the last year of his masters in American Studies at the University of Tübingen, and hopes to continue here with his PhD as well. He is writing about the construction of masculinity through the mechanisms of white supremacy in the United States. He works as a research assistant, and as an English proofreader for university publications. On the side, he writes articles for the Colorado Encyclopedia and Colorado Historical Society. He has really enjoyed getting involved with the Rent an American program run by the DAI, and visits schools in Reutlingen to share about American culture. Victoria works several jobs around town, including lecturing introductory English courses at the Uni and baking pizzas! We are also both working to further our German language skills. We both hope to pursue careers in academia, and wherever our path takes us, we wish to end up in Tübingen permanently. Now that our dreams have come true, we have the rest of our lives to explore the beautiful possibilities of life in Germany, and the possibilities are only just beginning.“