University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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The University

- Big Ten university.
- Large university, spread across three campuses: city campus, east campus and innovation campus.
- In the fall semester of 2022, UNL had a total enrolment of 23,805 students.
- Football culture is very prominent, campus is flooded with people wearing red for Saturday home-games.
- Students have free access to the campus recreational centre with their student ID; this includes a climbing wall, gym, swimming pool, badminton and basketball courts amongst other things.

Classes

- Must take a minimum of 12 credits per semester to be classed as a full-time student.
- Usually students would take a variety of classes, gaining a more well rounded education, but as an exchange student there is more leniency in the classes you take.
- I took Organic, Physical and Biochemistry alongside research in my 1st semester and focussed solely on research in my 2nd semester.
- 300 and 400 level courses would be comparable to Bath's 3rd year courses but students wanting to push themselves can, with permission, join 800 level courses; these are usually taken by graduate students.

Travel

- Lincoln has a very small airport; flights are much cheaper and more frequent out of Omaha which is roughly a 45 minute drive.
- There are a lot of interesting states surrounding Nebraska, I personally travelled by car to Colorado and Chicago, Illinois.
- Uber is very popular in Lincoln for day to day travel.
- I found the city to be very walkable and easy to navigate.



Figure 1: UNL Football Stadium during the homecoming game

Research

- Research was done at the chemical-biology interface, lots of synthesis but also utilised some biochemistry skills.
- Aimed to use CaADH, an oxidoreductase enzyme, to enantioselectively produce precursors to Taxol, an anti-cancer agent, in a one-pot synthesis.
- Worked by a dynamic reductive kinetic resolution (DYRKR) mechanism.

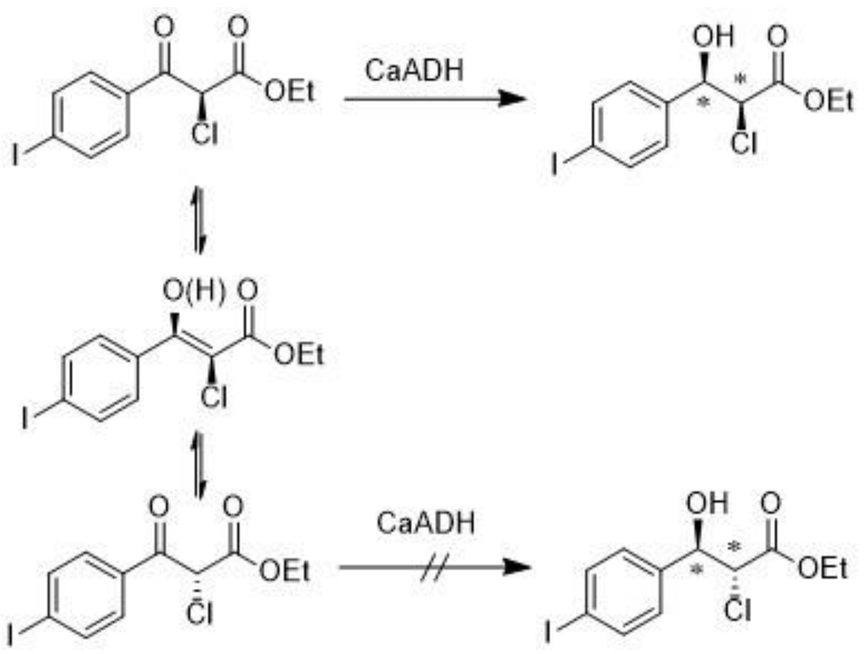


Figure 2: ChemDraw mechanism for DYRKR

- Enantiopure product could be isolated but not using the one-pot method.
- Research formed part of a larger project utilising this one-pot bio- and organometal-catalytic chemistry.
- Research on this project is still ongoing in the Berkowitz group.

Living On Campus

- I lived in Smith Hall in a 2-person room; it was much like the residence halls in Bath but with shared bedrooms.
- Recommend looking into accommodation with single bedrooms and a shared kitchen area as it seemed to be much more convenient.
- Food halls provided meals 3 times a day with the option for take-out dining later in the evening.
- There were also multiple convenience stores on campus where you could stock up on toiletries, snacks and anything else you might need. It would be better to use this as a last resort or if you have credit on your student card as it can get expensive.

Social Life

- The university hosts a lot of events in 'welcome week' which is a great opportunity to meet other international students.
- Lots of bars but not much of a clubbing scene.
- UNL has many different student groups to join; I played broomball in 1st semester and joined an acapella group where we performed on and off campus and also competed in an international collegiate level competition!
- My friend group took advantage of the free student skate nights held on the hockey rink.
- Overall, people were really helpful and it was easy to make friends.



Figure 3: Picture taken on a group trip to Colorado