Irvine
Irvine is about the size of Malmö and it is deemed the safest city in the US with a population over 300K. The city itself is not that much fun but the benefit is its location. Irvine is located in Orange County, which lies directly beneath Los Angeles and about two hours from San Diego. Newport beach and Balboa Island is a mere bike ride away from campus and there are an infinite amount of noteworthy restaurants in the vicinity. Adjacent cities host a diverse selection of sport and music events all year around.

Campus
The campus is exceptionally inclusive, hosting over 600 different “clubs” for anyone and any interest. The campus is one of the largest in the UC-system and the facilities in general are fantastic. As opposed to LU, the campus is not spread out all over the city, but is instead a small town of its own.

Courses
The school year is divided in to three quarters that are 11 weeks each (including finals week). The courses are all in English. Personally, I only took graduate courses, which are definitely more time consuming compared to the upper division undergraduate courses. I would say that full time graduate studies occupy at least 50h a week, depending on your field of choice. Most courses have homework that is handed in each week, a midterm and a final exam. Certain courses even include a proposal or a presentation of some kind. The Professors were in general very approachable and the lectures and discussion sections were executed in a very similar manner compared to LU.

Accommodations
Basically every apartment that is even remotely close to campus is owned by The Irvine Company, so the best way to find an apartment is through their website. Orange County is apparently one of the more expensive places in the US to live, so if you are looking for analogous prices to LU, you would probably have to move away from campus quite a bit. The best way to get a cheap apartment is to find one or more roommates to split an apartment or a dorm with. Many students want to live out in Newport Beach, which is rather expensive, but again, manageable if you have several roommates. Almost every student in Irvine has a car due to the very poor public transportations. You can take the train to LA and San Diego, just as you can get to places by taking the bus, however, the busses and trains are pretty shady and the busses and trains operate on odd and few hours.

Leisure
As you might be aware of, Americans are quite keen on sports, so if you are into sports at all, there is without a doubt something for you here. There is only one pub on campus, but it is quite large and serves very good food and drinks. The pub is usually really crowded on Friday nights, so be there early! As for other pubs and nightclubs, Newport Beach, Santa Ana and Laguna Beach host a great variety of
places that is certain to accommodate most people. Prices at these places are similar to Sweden, albeit a tad cheaper.

**Other**
The whole University of California experience is great, however, the administrative process of getting a visa, enrolling in courses, finding a place to live etc. is extremely time consuming and I would definitely recommend to start working on this right after you find out which campus you are attending. I will of course recommend the SoCal (southern California) campuses slightly more since having summer weather all year long, is not too bad.

**Permission to publish**
Yes