

Master data

Last name: ██████████	Date of birth: ██████████
Program: Erasmus (SMS)	Study field: Soziale Arbeit: transnational
Home institution: FRANKFU04	Host institution: AMSTERD05
Academic year: 2016/2017	Stay from: 29.08.2016
Stay until: 03.02.2017	Email: ██████████

Services rendered by the Frankfurt University

<p>a) Service of the International Office</p> <p>b) Service of the Department (Fachbereich)</p> <p>c) Please comment: What was good? How can the International Office / the Department improve their services in regard to the exchange programme?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sehr zufrieden <input type="checkbox"/> zufrieden <input type="checkbox"/> unzufrieden <input type="checkbox"/> sehr unzufrieden</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sehr zufrieden <input type="checkbox"/> zufrieden <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unzufrieden <input type="checkbox"/> sehr unzufrieden</p> <p>The only reason why I was not happy with the service of the Department was because I did not get told before that the minor I wanted to choose was in the 4th year of law, which is far beyond my level which made my whole stay extremely hard and I was not happy with it at all. I could not get this information from the website or anything else of the University I was going to and I think this would have been in the responsibility of the International office or the Department to let us know when a whole minor is far beyond our skill set.</p>
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Personal and linguistic preparation

<p>a) How well were you prepared linguistically for your exchange stay?</p> <p>b) What was your language level in the working language?</p> <p>c) Did you take any preparatory language classes?</p> <p>d) Did the partner university provide language classes?</p> <p>e) How well were you able to follow classes linguistically at the partner institution?</p> <p>f) Please comment: Which language did you use? / Did you use, learn, or improve any other languages? / How did you communicate with your fellow students?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sehr gut <input type="checkbox"/> gut <input type="checkbox"/> schlecht <input type="checkbox"/> sehr schlecht</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A2 <input type="checkbox"/> B1 <input type="checkbox"/> B2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C1 <input type="checkbox"/> C2 <input type="checkbox"/> Muttersprachler</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ja während des Semesters <input type="checkbox"/> Ja einen Intensivkurs an der FRA-UAS <input type="checkbox"/> Ja einen Intensivkurs im Zielland</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ja während des Semesters <input type="checkbox"/> Ja einen Intensivkurs <input type="checkbox"/> Ja beide Arten <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sehr gut <input type="checkbox"/> gut <input type="checkbox"/> schlecht <input type="checkbox"/> sehr schlecht</p> <p>The language we used in class and also with the other class mates was english. I learned a few words in dutch but 99% of the day I spoke english. My english I believe has improved in the amount of words I know now and as well in the use of the language.</p>
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Accommodation

a) Did the host university arrange for accommodation?

Ja in einem Wohnheim Ja eine privat vermietete Unterkunft Nein die Möglichkeit bestand nicht

b) How high were your overall monthly costs for accommodation (in Euro)?

430 euro

c) How would you describe the quality of your accommodation?

sehr gut gut schlecht sehr schlecht

d) How well was the accommodation situated? How long did it take you on average to reach the partner university (in minutes)?

My accommodation was quite a bit outside of the citycenter. With the bike was it 30 minutes to school as well as into the city center. When I took the tram then it was also 30 minutes to University but around 15 to 20 minutes into the city center, to central station around 30 minutes.

e) Which web sites, forums, facebookpages, contacts, etc. can you recommend for looking for accommodation?

I only got information from my partner-university so I don't know any other forums.

f) Please comment: Where have you been accommodated (name of dormitory, location, part of town, etc.)? How would you describe the surroundings of your accommodation (shopping facilities, distance to the city center, nightlife, etc.)?

I lived in the suburb called Osdorp, more exact in Meer en Vaart., which is in the area of new west of Amsterdam. There are many places for shopping really close to the flat, as well as a shopping mall, with H&M, phone store and so on. One bar and a pizza place are really close as well. But otherwise for night life and bars you always have to go in the city which takes you with the tram around 15 minutes and 30 minutes by bike.

Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation

a) Was an orientation program organized for incoming exchange students?

Yes No

b) Were you informed about organizational issues such as visa, insurances, class registration, setting up of e-mail accounts, etc.?

Ja sehr ausführlich Ja eher oberflächlich No

c) Did the host university offer activities for exchange students throughout the semester?

Yes No

d) Judging from your experience, which is the best arrival time?

I can not say too much to the points above as I know that there was a first introduction week for international students which was a little bit of information but mostly fun activities, but I was not in Amsterdam at this time so I only know it from other people. During the semester was not really a lot offered

e) Please comment: How did you organize your arrival? / Was the extent of the orientation program sufficient? Were all important questions answered? What did you have to find out yourself? / How fast were you able to get in contact with the domestic students? / How were the services for exchange students?

I did it quite differently than most other international students I arrived only a weekend before the start so I didn't go to the introduction week. Therefore I can not say anything to the orientation program. I walked from the central station to De Key where I picked up my keys for my room and then took a cab to my housing which cost me 30 euro but I didn't have to carry my bags through the city. At the airport I bought a train/tram/bus ticket for the weekend and a phone card. My first weekend I pretty much spent walking around and exploring my place. I was not in any contact with other students, but I wanted it that way so it was good for me.

Living Abroad

a) Did you open a bank account abroad?

Ja das war notwendig Ja das war praktischer No

b) Compared to Frankfurt, how high was the cost of living abroad?

Höher mehr als 200% Höher ca. 200% Höher ca. 150% Ähnlich wie in Frankfurt Geringer ca. 75% Geringer ca. 50% Geringer weniger als 50%

c) Did the host university provide discounted/free public transportation?

Yes No

d) Have you received AuslandsBAFöG?

Yes No

f) Which supermarkets, stores, forums can you recommend to lower expenses?

Dirk van de Broek, Lidl, and Hema is a bit like ikea

f) Please comment: What additional expenses did you have during your semester abroad? / How far were you able to travel with your semester ticket? / How was your student life off-campus? / How were the mensas/ student cafeterias? What types of meals were served? How much did the meals cost? / How were the libraries? Was their use free? / Did the university provide computer workplaces/ computer pools? Was Wi-Fi available on-campus? / Were you able to use study rooms? Were you able to rent separate rooms for studying? / Did the university provide a sports program? Was this free of charge?

Its important to calculate money to spend for traveling. Best to buy or hire a bike (25 Euro per month). The tram is quite expensive because you can not buy a month ticket. You can buy a blue chipcard for 7 euro and top it up with money so that you only pay per kilometer but I still spend 10 to 20 euro per week for traveling because for me it was to cold in december to take the bike. Dutch students travel for free but there is no discount for international students for the tram/bus/train. The mensa or cafe at uni had good food which was also ok from the price, depends on what you wanted between 2 to 7 euro. The mensa had always soups, bread, yoghourts, fresh fruit, sausages, sandwiches, but also full meals, like pasta, salad, pizza, rice dishes and so on. There are several libraries we could use one right next to my building, which wasn't so big. The use of the library was free, free wifi as well. No separate study rooms. Don't know if sports program was provided.

Studying at the Host University

a) How satisfied were you with classes at the host university?

Sehr zufrieden zufrieden unzufrieden sehr unzufrieden

b) How would you describe the academic standard of classes compared to Frankfurt?

Sehr viel anspruchsvoller Etwas anspruchsvoller Ähnlich wie in Frankfurt Etwas einfacher Sehr viel einfacher

c) Did you experience any difference in teaching methods/ class structure? / Which were the difference regarding your expectations and your experiences at the partner university? What surprised you, what should newly arriving students know? / How were the student services? / Was the fact, that you were an exchange student taken into account (by professors or other staff)? If so, how? / How were difficulties, which you or other exchange students may have met, handled by the partner university?

The major problem was that the whole minor was in the 4th year of law and I only started my second year and uni. The classes were structured like in school. Always home work, we were only allowed to miss one class which I see as difficult when you are sick more than ones. We had 12 to 15 exams per 2,5 months so in total nearly 30 assignments in the semester. We all had extreme difficulties and were completely overstressed, it was simply too much and this all on a level of law which I had no experience of. The professors did not take into account that some of us are not law students, we just need to learn harder to hand in the same results. The whole minor is not suitable for social worker students at all and especially not because it is in the last final semester before the bachelor for the Dutch law students. We had a counselor at university which was friendly but often could not help, because we had problems with the coordinator of the minor Mr. Godeschalk

Final Remarks

a) How satisfied were you with your stay abroad?

Sehr zufrieden zufrieden unzufrieden sehr unzufrieden

b) Which skills were you able to develop during your stay abroad?

Mostly not to give up when it is extremely hard. But also i gathered knowledge about human rightst as well as I think my writing skills in english have developed, my negotiation skills also and of course I have a much better knowledge about international law, european law, private law, applying law, reading law and so on.

c) Given the same circumstances, would you repeat your stay abroad?

Yes No

d) Please comment: What should future exchange students know/ do/ avoid? / How would you overall rate your exchange experience? / In what ways have you benefitted academically, personally, linguistically for your future career?

I only would repeat my stay again when it would be a diffrent minor Get as much information as possible before, about the University, the minor and so on, especially about how difficult the content of the programm is. Even though my semester was super hard I still met amazing people and leraned a lot for myself. I have more friends all over the world now, we learned, laughed and cried togheter. The most importnat thing for me was to find good people to be with, then even a super hard minor can be done togheter. I would advise to ask the international office and the department or other students before a lot of questions to get more infromation about the place you want to go. For my future career I learned a lot in how to fromulate legal requests or legal anserws, or understanding legal concerns. Personally I learned a lot to keep believing in yourself even though it seems to be to difficult to do at the end I made it even with quite good grades.

Additional page:

Please complete the following sentence: My exchange semester will remain unforgettable because...

... it was the hardest time so far in my life, due to personal circumstances as well as to a super hard semester in amsterdam which I wanted to stop after the first month but I made it with hard hard work through and now I am really proud of myself.

Upload Pictures

A picture is worth a thousand words: Here you have the opportunity to upload up to 5 photos (jpeg). You must have taken the photos yourself and agree that the International Office uses them for advertising purposes (on the website, in brochures, flyers, by name of photographer).

Foto für Erfahrungsbericht

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