

Master data

Last name: [REDACTED]	Date of birth: [REDACTED]
Program: Erasmus (SMS)	Study field: Business Information Systems (international) Wirtschaftsinformatik
Home institution: FRANKFU04	Host institution: AMSTERD05
Academic year: 2016/2017	Stay from: 19.08.2016
Stay until: 31.01.2017	Email: [REDACTED]

Services rendered by the Frankfurt University

a) Service of the International Office	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sehr zufrieden <input type="checkbox"/> zufrieden <input type="checkbox"/> unzufrieden <input type="checkbox"/> sehr unzufrieden
b) Service of the Department (Fachbereich)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sehr zufrieden <input type="checkbox"/> zufrieden <input type="checkbox"/> unzufrieden <input type="checkbox"/> sehr unzufrieden
c) Please comment: What was good? How can the International Office / the Department improve their services in regard to the exchange programme?	All required steps are sufficiently explained in advance. The provided website (mobility online) is very useful to keep track on all required documents.

Personal and linguistic preparation

a) How well were you prepared linguistically for your exchange stay?	<input type="checkbox"/> sehr gut <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> gut <input type="checkbox"/> schlecht <input type="checkbox"/> sehr schlecht
b) What was your language level in the working language?	<input type="checkbox"/> A2 <input type="checkbox"/> B1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B2 <input type="checkbox"/> C1 <input type="checkbox"/> C2 <input type="checkbox"/> Muttersprachler
c) Did you take any preparatory language classes?	<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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
d) Did the partner university provide language classes?	<input type="checkbox"/> Ja während des Semesters <input type="checkbox"/> Ja einen Intensivkurs <input type="checkbox"/> Ja beide Arten <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
e) How well were you able to follow classes linguistically at the partner institution?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sehr gut <input type="checkbox"/> gut <input type="checkbox"/> schlecht <input type="checkbox"/> sehr schlecht
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?	The main language of all classes is english. The communication with fellow students is also done in english. I would say I just improved my english, especially words needed for everyday life. I also learned a bit dutch, as I took part in a course offered at the university.

Accommodation

<p>a) Did the host university arrange for accommodation?</p> <p>b) How high were your overall monthly costs for accommodation (in Euro)?</p> <p>c) How would you describe the quality of your accommodation?</p> <p>d) How well was the accommodation situated? How long did it take you on average to reach the partner university (in minutes)?</p> <p>e) Which web sites, forums, facebookpages, contacts, etc. can you recommend for looking for accommodation?</p> <p>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.)?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ja in einem Wohnheim <input type="checkbox"/> Ja eine privat vermietete Unterkunft <input type="checkbox"/> Nein die Möglichkeit bestand nicht</p> <p>350</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sehr gut <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> gut <input type="checkbox"/> schlecht <input type="checkbox"/> sehr schlecht</p> <p>The accomodation is very well situated as the building is directly next to the university. It took me only 1 minute to reach the university.</p> <p>The easiest and most comfortable way of fining a accomodation is to apply for a accomodation via the cooperating student residence. At the beginning students receive an email from the partner university in order to start the application procedure.</p> <p>The student residence is located in the south-west, about 20 minutes from the city center. Students can get into the city easily and quickly by public transport (metro). The area is also well located when it comes to shopping. There are various shopping opportunities in close distance (5-10min). It is more a business district, in the evening hours it becomes rather quiet in the area.</p>
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Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation

<p>a) Was an orientation program organized for incoming exchange students?</p> <p>b) Were you informed about organizational issues such as visa, insurances, class registration, setting up of e-mail accounts, etc.?</p> <p>c) Did the host university offer activities for exchange students throughout the semester?</p> <p>d) Judging from your experience, which is the best arrival time?</p> <p>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?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ja sehr ausführlich <input type="checkbox"/> Ja eher oberflächlich <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>I would recommend the arrival time. I arrived at the 22nd August and semester start was on the 1st September. There was sufficient time for an introduction and to explore the new area.</p> <p>I arrived by train which I organized by myself. The introduction week lasted one week. At the arrival day, all students met at the central building of the university. The partner university provided a lot of important information in advance regarding all areas of preparation and planning. I quickly came into close contact with the some other students. Groups were formed at the beginning so that everybody had the opportunity to get to know each other. The service was very friendly and extensive. The partner university assisted us in all matters of concern.</p>
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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?

In order to buy foods, drinks etc. I would recommend the the Lidl store in the area or other cheap supermarkets as the major supermarket chain called Albert Heijn is comparatively expensive.

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?

A travel ticket is not included in the semester fee – so it depends on the student, how regularly she or he wants to go into the city center by the metro. It's about 2,20 € one-way. A monthly ticket is about 90€. However, in summertime, biking is definitely a cheap alternative (about 20min into the city center by bike). There are also several markets for used bicycles (from 50€ up) – you don't have to worry about finding a bike. The university Mensa is a cheap option for having a lunch – however it has to be mentioned that the offering is very limited (sandwiches and soup), no warm meal as you might know from Germany. The prices are OK – there are several other locations in near surroundings also at reasonable prices. The city center is rather expensive concerning food and drinks. The library provides enough (computer)workplaces. I didn't borrow books from the library – the selection is very limited (only one bookshelf for the whole "library").

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 educational system in the Netherlands seems to be completely different. The lectures are no lectures in the proper sense, as students very often have to work by themselves – in other words a huge amount of group work. Compared to Germany, the theoretical section is very short! Groups of students were formed at the beginning, students with totally different skills and knowledge were put together. It is certainly possible that the weaker students benefit from others. I found it a great pity, that there was no clear individual assessment. In some instances, I was under-challenged. However, the workload is high, the topics were often quite simple. Although it is a hard thing to say, I can't recommend such a system.

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?

I improved my English speaking skills

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?

All future exchange students should inform themselves in advance about the educational system at the partner university. The Netherlands has a completely different grading system (5,5-10). However, they will never give you a 10! Even you doing a great job, it might happen that lectures give you "only" an 8 as in their point of view it is already very good. All this could become a bigger issue when it comes to the final transcript of records. There is no uniform conversion table in Germany. Therefore, please inform yourself in advance how your university is going to convert the grades from the foreign university.

Additional page:

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

My exchange semester will remain unforgettable because I learned a lot about the other culture. Especially, what was interesting for me, is the completely different educational system. An exchange semester is a good opportunity to get in contact to a new culture and language and to gain life experience. I met people from all over the world which helped me to establish new social contacts. All in all, I have had a great experience and I am looking forward to what comes next.

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.jpg

Foto für Erfahrungsbericht

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