

Master data

Last name: [REDACTED]	Date of birth: [REDACTED]
Program: Erasmus (SMS)	Study field: International Finance
Home institution: FRANKFU04	Host institution: HELSINK39
Academic year: 2016/2017	Stay from: 01.08.2016
Stay until: 31.12.2016	Email: [REDACTED]

Services rendered by the Frankfurt University

- a) Service of the International Office
 Sehr zufrieden zufrieden unzufrieden sehr unzufrieden
- b) Service of the Department (Fachbereich)
 Sehr zufrieden zufrieden unzufrieden sehr unzufrieden
- c) Please comment: What was good? How can the International Office / the Department improve their services in regard to the exchange programme?

Personal and linguistic preparation

- a) How well were you prepared linguistically for your exchange stay?
 sehr gut gut schlecht sehr schlecht
- b) What was your language level in the working language?
 A2 B1 B2 C1 C2 Muttersprachler
- c) Did you take any preparatory language classes?
 Ja während des Semesters Ja einen Intensivkurs an der FRA-UAS Ja einen Intensivkurs im Zielland
 No
- d) Did the partner university provide language classes?
 Ja während des Semesters Ja einen Intensivkurs Ja beide Arten No
- e) How well were you able to follow classes linguistically at the partner institution?
 sehr gut gut schlecht 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?
English language during the classes

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)?

414

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)?

6-room-flat and 15 minutes away from the university; 5 minutes away from downtown.

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

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.)?

Located in Pasila; big part of Helsinki; many students Many student apartments, and offices. Huge train station located next to the students flat. Easy to get to the university and downtown. Nice part of the town to get to the city center in a few minutes; train every minute; huge bus and tram point. two big grocery stores next to the student apartments.

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?

It is possible to arrive every time, because a tutor will pick up your key for you and you have to organize nothing. But to be fair and not let a tutor come to the airport in the night, for example, you should arrive during the day.

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 have booked a flight from Bremen to Helsinki. It was pretty easy. Before my trip my tutor contacted me to help me with any kind of question. This was my first contact with a domestic student. After my flight he has picked me up and brought me to my accommodation. Because he did it by car it was super easy and fast. The first days he came and has shown me all the important parts of the town. I have also met all the other exchange students so we went to the town on our own. Because of the help in the first days we found our way without any problems. Every day there was the possibility to go to some small meetings; it was not possible to get bored!

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?

Lidl is the cheapest in Helsinki, SMarket is in the middle and KMarket was the most expensive one but with the best products. There are also different stores for household supply store that were cheap. (Tockmann)

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?

Because my flat was empty I had to buy a lot of products for the household (pans, pots, forks/knives/spoons, cups, glasses, and so on). Also stuff for cleaning. The semesterticket was valid for Helsinki itself, but this was enough for the most trips. For trips to other parts you can buy cheap extra tickets. The student life among the campus life was really exciting! Many times we traveled to a small island (ferry ticket is included in the semester ticket) to enjoy the sun or just walk. Also we have often met in the Students house on the campus to play pool or just talk. Partying in contrast was expensive but feasible. The cafeteria was super good and super cheap. An awesome meal with a main dish, a side dish, a salad and drinks was just 2,60 EUR!! I have cooked in my flat rarely. They serve up to 4 different meals. The usage of the library is free and super easy and they are also offering a lot of computer rooms to use every day, but also super fast WI-FI to use your own computer.

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?

They are teaching in a more practical way. Homeworks every week and small tasks during the lectures. But this is super effective and I have learned a lot. It was fun to go to the lectures. Also to study with different nations, because the ARCADA is super international. They are much more open for foreign students than the FRA UAS - unfortunately. The student services was perfect and super helpful.

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?

Language skills personal skills like openness, critical faculties or ability to speak in front of a group

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?

You should avoid to do your homework late, because there are awesome activities at the weekend. Try to do a lot with other students (foreign or not). You can discover a lot there. Spend time with your friends there. Ask questions during the lessons. The lecturer is super helpful and open for critical things and discussions. You should know that living can be cheap if you use local products or eat in the cafeteria. My overall rate for the experience in Finland is just advisable! I met people who became friends and I saw awesome places in Finland, Norway, Stockholm, Estonia and Denmark. The exchange helped me to grow my language skills and how to handle also people of other nations. I also saw how they are reacting in the first moment when they are talking about Germany. I hope I have changed this point of view of them.

Additional page:

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

I have seen an other student life that is completely different to the one I know in Germany. I have also seen places in this short time that I will never forget. I found friends all around. Furthermore, I learned a new way how to study that I will try to continue here in Germany.

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).

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Foto für Erfahrungsbericht

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