

Master data

Last name: [REDACTED]	Date of birth: [REDACTED]
Program: Erasmus (SMS)	Study field: International Business Administration
Home institution: FRANKFU04	Host institution: ORANJES02
Academic year: 2016/2017	Stay from: 15.08.2016
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?	The international office was very helpful and flexible and helped with different things such as immigration procedure, housing, course changes etc.

Personal and linguistic preparation

a) How well were you prepared linguistically for your exchange stay?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sehr gut <input 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 type="checkbox"/> B2 <input checked="" 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?	For the lectures and among students I used English almost all the time. One course used a Dutch textbook, but since I do know some Dutch it was not a problem and I actually could practice my reading and vocabulary. I also had the chance to learn the local language Papiamento a little, as my classmates would use it in conversations with each other and in our group chat.

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 type="checkbox"/> Ja in einem Wohnheim <input type="checkbox"/> Ja eine privat vermietete Unterkunft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nein die Möglichkeit bestand nicht</p> <p>500</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sehr gut <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> gut <input type="checkbox"/> schlecht <input type="checkbox"/> sehr schlecht</p> <p>ca. 15 to 20 min walking</p> <p>www.arubamatch.aw</p> <p>Dakote but very close to the center Playa. I found it a good neighborhood, quiet, but the city center and Nikki beach in close walking distance, two supermarkets, a little mall and a pharmacy closeby.</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>About a few days or a week before the Orientation Programme. So you can get accustomed to the hot weather and enjoy the beach and sea.</p> <p>I booked a flight and I already knew students from the university from a summer school programme. So I already had contact. Besides, there were some local students who organised activities for the exchange students. The orientation programme went for a whole week and included everything from information, to welcoming and fun activities on the beach.</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?

They all have about the same prices, but good quality food and good variety is offered at Save a Lot, Superfood and Ling&Son's

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?

Public Transportation is not a very reliable option and doesn't cover many areas. So I was lucky to have friends with cars who would pick me up when we did something. If one can afford, renting a car or finding housing that also offers to share a car is a really good way to make sure you are flexible. The distances are fine for bicycles but the heat makes it a huge challenge and the cars here are not used to watch out for bicycles on the street either. There is no sports offered by the school, but there are a couple of sport opportunities in Aruba, from water sports, to gyms, yoga, zumba or tai chi classes. The cafeteria at the school is ok, but very small and (as food is everywhere in Aruba) expensive.

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 classes are much more oriented on project and group work. For the courses I chose, there was only one written midterm exam, everything else was paper assignments (group and individual). I liked the small classes, especially with my classmates, there was time for discussions which helps a lot when analyzing a topic. The school requires much more work at home than my school in Frankfurt. You also get a resit chance if you did not pass the midterms or finals. The fact that I was an exchange student did not made the teachers treat me any different, but it gave opportunity to discuss different topics from another viewpoint.

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 skills in working in a team of students a lot. That is also thanks to the other team members being eager to work and interested in the project. I also gained skills in research since all the classes I took included a research project of the one or the other kind with conducting a survey or interviews or extended secondary data research.

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?

Immigration laws and enforcement is very difficult and handled in a confusing way. Many trouble occurred, but could be handled by the international office. So students need to be aware that immigration in Aruba is not easy going and they should cooperate with the international office as good as possible, and do not get anxious when trouble occurs. There is always a solution somehow.

Additional page:

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

I learned so many things, personal, professional and it gave me ideas for my future.

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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