

Master data

Last name: [REDACTED]	Date of birth: [REDACTED]
Program: Erasmus (SMS)	Study field: International Business Administration
Home institution: FRANKFU04	Host institution: BORDEAU45
Academic year: 2016/2017	Stay from: 08.09.2016
Stay until: 17.12.2016	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 only aspect I want to recommend is better assisting students in creating their learning agreements.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> No
d) Did the partner university provide language classes?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ja während des Semesters <input type="checkbox"/> Ja einen Intensivkurs <input type="checkbox"/> Ja beide Arten <input 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?	I used English in my classes and I was also able to improve my French outside of university. Since we were only Erasmus students in class we communicated in English.

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)?
490

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)?
Outside of Bordeaux, 45min

e) Which web sites, forums, facebookpages, contacts, etc. can you recommend for looking for accommodation?
leboncoin.fr, apartager.fr, facebook group: colocation Bordeaux

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.)?
Carbon Blanc (suburb of Bordeaux), it was a very little city, therefore there was nothing much expect for a supermarket

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 arrived in september but I would recommend to come earlier if someone still has to find an accomodation.

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 flew by plane but since there are no direct flights, I would recommend the train. The extent of the orientation program was sufficient but I had to find out myself how to get a tram ticket. The buddy program is not existent at all since three students were responsible for the whole Erasmus group and they did not do a good job. Since we were sadly only Erasmus students in class, I did not get in contact with domestic students at all. The services for exchange students were okay but not extraordinary good. I was a bit disappointed by the organisation.

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?

Aldi & Lidl (they are not directly in the city center), local markets (e.g. marché du capucin)

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?

I did not have any additional expenses apart from the higher prices in general and the tram ticket (30 EUR a month). With the ticket I could use buses and trams in and around Bordeaux. Student Life of campus was great since Bordeaux is a vibrant city who offers many activities. (check out the app wingit to find events). The university did not have a mensa or a library since it was very small. There is a student restaurant not far from the university but I did not go there. The university offered computers and wifi which did not always work. Study rooms are very rare (there are two for the whole university). The university provides sports programs but failed to inform us about it.

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?

I had to do many presentations in all of my 12 classes so it was a lot of work during the semester and the oral participation was graded. The private university has a very high professional reputation but I experienced it different. All of the teachers are professionals and some of them have no teaching experience therefore it was kind of difficult to follow them. Newly arriving students should know that there are only Erasmus students in the class and it is hard to get in touch with French students(within the university) which is really disappointing.

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 was able to improve my knowledge of French, I learned to prepare new dishes and I became more self-confident since I had to take the initiative to get into contact with the French.

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?

Exchange students should know that it is important to start very early to look for a good accomodation and the the university is not assisting in looking for an accomodation. Most of the classes offered are marketing classes. My overall exchange experience was great (apart from the university). I do not think that I benefitted academically a lot since the classes were not that great. I definitely learned a new language which will help me in the future.

Additional page:

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

I found amazing new international friends and I have a ton of great memories.

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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