

Personal Report

VIA University College, SoSe 2022, 1 Semester FB 4 – Social Work: transnational - Bachelor

Language

Which language did you use? How did you communicate with your fellow students?

We used English in class, but I also learned some Danish at a language school.

How well were you able to follow classes linguistically at the partner institution? Did the partner university provide language classes?

I could follow classes very well. The university did not provide language classes.

Accommodation

Did the host university arrange for accommodation? How would you describe the quality of your accommodation?

Yes, they provided rooms in a dormitory.

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

430€

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

It took me about 15 minutes by bike, longer on the way back because it was uphill. The accommodation was quite well situated because everything needed was close and it was not that far from the center.

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

I didn't use any.

Where have you been accommodated (name of dormitory, location, part of town, etc.)?

It is called Grundvigshus Kollegiet. Supermarkets were quite close and you could be in the center in 10-15 minutes by bike. The accommodation also had a nice yard and community activities.

Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation

Which is the best arrival time?

Many people already arrive a bit earlier than the beginning of classes, so if you wanna join early activities I recommend to come 1 week before. I arrived two days before which was fine because it still gave me some time to settle in, I would not come later than that.

How did you organize your arrival? 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?

I had a buddy picking me up and bringing me to my dorm. She helped me with everything in the beginning.

Living Abroad

Compared to Frankfurt, how high was the cost of living abroad? What additional expenses did you have during your semester abroad?

About 200% higher. I can recommend the cheap supermarkets Netto and Rema1000.

How far were you able to travel with your semester ticket? How were the libraries? Was their use free? Did the university provide computer workplaces/ computer pools? Was Wi-Fi available on campus? Did the university provide a sports program? Was this free of charge?

I travelled a lot which consumed most of my money, canteen food is also not that cheap but you can always bring your own food. There was also not always a warm vegetarian option. A semester ticket was not provided but I rented a bike for about 20 euros a month which is quite cheap. Aarhus also has some libraries that can be used for free. At university there were many workplaces but also many people using them at times. There was also Wi-Fi available. There is also a choir and I think some sports clubs at the university.

Studying at the Host University

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

Similar to Frankfurt.

Did you experience any difference in teaching methods/ class structure? Which were the difference regarding your expectations and your experiences at the partner university?

It was more practical, we had a few workshops and also, we had different teachers, some just visiting for having one class with us. Also, we did not have class at the same times and with the same person every week, but a schedule for the two parts of the semester was provided in advance.

Final Remarks

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 really enjoyed the experience and the teachers were really great. I also loved the diversity of the different teachers. I benefitted most from my semester abroad because I might now know what to do after my bachelor degree and of course also I improved my English and gained basic knowledge in Danish.