

Personal Report

Karel De Grote 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?

I always spoke English while living here; in class, with my fellow students and also with my friends here. I learned a little bit of Dutch but I did not follow a language course.

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 partner university provided a language course during the semester.

Accommodation

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

No, they did not provide accommodations.

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 was my own fault that I chose a student residence that was located in the North and my campus was in the South. However, it only took me 30 minutes to reach my university.

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

Facebook groups, kotweb.de

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

It was a Xior building close to Park Spoor Nord in the North of Antwerp. It took me around 15 minutes to reach the city center, but I had some bars, supermarkets and the huge park very close by. Overall, the North of Antwerp is a cheaper area than the South.

Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation

Which is the best arrival time?

I think every time is great, but especially during Spring there are many events happening throughout the whole city. I arrived by the end of January.

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 arrived by train and that was very convenient. The welcoming week was awesome and we got to know each other very quickly and immediately had a group feeling. All important questions were answered and you discovered Antwerp, the university and everything else together.

Living Abroad

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

It was about 150% higher than in Frankfurt. In order to save money, I can recommend going to Aldi, Lidl and Albert Heijn for grocery shopping.

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?

The tickets were definitely expensive and I missed my semester ticket here. Also, the night life and restaurants are way more expensive than in Frankfurt. The mensa and cafeteria at uni were affordable. Wi-Fi and computers were available. My life here was really great, but I definitely recommend to save up more than I did.

Studying at the Host University

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

More challenging.

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

We worked a lot with mentimeter or different survey options, which was very nice in order to work together as a group. In the beginning we had more classes than I used to have in Frankfurt, so we spent long days on campus. The teachers were very nice and helpful.

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 would rate my stay a 10/10 and even though Belgium was not my choice, I would recommend it to anyone! The only thing people have to be aware of are the insanely high prices here. I definitely benefited personally from this stay and learned a lot about myself. I was able to develop my social skills and communication skills, since you have to build a social circle and you meet so many new people (private life, in the building and also fellow students).