

Personal Report

University of Aruba, SoSe 2022, 1 Semester FB3 – International Business Administration - Bachelor

Language

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

English was the language I used and I did improve my Spanish.

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

I could follow the classes very well. Language classes were provided 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 euros)?

350\$

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

For the price, really good. I would recommend it.

Which websites, forums, Facebook pages, contacts, etc. can you recommend for looking for accommodation?

Facebook and information by the University of Aruba.

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

My accommodation was 'Comfort Apartments'. The address is Montana 43E, Noord, Aruba. There are multiple supermarkets nearby as well as beautiful beaches and bars. 5 minutes away is a beach to go kitesurfing.

Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation

Which is the best arrival time?

I was arriving late, but one week prior to the start of the semester should be sufficient.

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 did not attend the orientation program, but I was connecting extremely fast. I was living in a shared apartment with two other students from my university in Frankfurt and twelve other exchange students lived in my apartment complex, so connecting wasn't a problem.

Living Abroad

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

About 150% higher than in Frankfurt. I spent a lot of money on kitesurfing, scuba diving, traveling to South America, and partying, but its once a lifetime opportunity to do all of that. Make sure to save enough before you go there. Savemore is the cheapest supermarket in Noord.

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 cafeteria was cheaper but not cheap. Wifi on campus is available. I wasn't attending any sports program, nobody does.

Studying at the Host University

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

Less 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?

It is way smaller and more schoolish. You have to hand in assignments every few weeks and do more during the semester. Therefore, the exams are easier and it is easier to get good grades.

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, and linguistically for your future career?

Save enough to enjoy your stay or get a job there (Bars like Moomba pay good money). I became way more independent and confident. Not that I was particularly lacking those skills but this experience gave me a different attitude in my everyday life. I am more confident in setting goals and leaving my comfort zone as much as possible to grow. Personally, and in my career. My exchange semester will remain unforgettable because of all the great people with whom I shared unimaginable moments/experiences in heavenly locations.