

## Master data

Last name: [REDACTED]	Date of birth: [REDACTED]
Program: <b>Erasmus (SMS)</b>	Study field: <b>Soziale Arbeit</b>
Home institution: <b>FRANKFU04</b>	Host institution: <b>GRANADA01</b>
Academic year: <b>2016/2017</b>	Stay from: <b>12.09.2016</b>
Stay until: <b>10.02.2017</b>	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 type="checkbox"/> Sehr zufrieden <input checked="" 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?	<b>The International Office was available at most times for any kind of questions related to the semester abroad. The communication to the University in Granada, Spain seemed to be very good as well and so I had no bigger troubles organizational wise. The only thing that did not appear very clear to me is the communication inbetween the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences meaning that we sometimes got various instructions from the different departments, in this case the Social Work department.</b>

## Personal and linguistic preparation

a) How well were you prepared linguistically for your exchange stay?	<input type="checkbox"/> sehr gut <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> B2 <input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> sehr gut <input checked="" 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?	<b>As I studied in Spain and there were almost no courses in English available i mostly studied in Spanish. Of the five courses i took one was in English, a course in the faculty of Political Sciences even though i study Social Work. In the faculty of Social Work there are no courses in English available yet, but i wanted to improve my Spanish skills anyway. Studying in Spanish at the beginning seemed a little bit complicated, also because of the strong andalusian accent some professors have but after some time it gets easier to understand the content of their lectures. With other students i also tended to talk in Spanish, only with the other Erasmus students we talked a lot in English when we were not at the University. Even though I would not say that i improved my English i still would say that it was nice to talk in English and Spanish so it gets easier to change in between them which helps for translation purposes, for example.</b>

## 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)?

260

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)?

The flat i finally stayed in for the whole semester was very well situated. It was a room in a shared flat with two Spanish and one Norwegian girl. The house was directly at the Cathedral of Granada, which is the direct city centre. As the University of Granada with its 60.000 students is a quite big University there are a variety of faculties all over the city. The faculty of Social Work, as well as the faculty of Sociology and Political Sciences is located pretty much in the city centre, so I had a walk of not even 10 minutes to University each day, which is perfect for the breaks inbetween the classes. Granada as a city is not very huge either and the city centre is pretty small, so everything can be reached by foot.

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

[www.idealista.es](http://www.idealista.es) [www.milanuncios.es](http://www.milanuncios.es) [www.fotocasa.es](http://www.fotocasa.es) There are many different websites to look at when searching for a flat in Granada. There are also some Facebook pages available, you just have to search for "Piso Granada" in Facebook and will immediately find some sites to have a look at. I heard that the University or faculty can also help finding accomodation but none of us needed this service because it was rather easy to search for something on our own.

f) Please comment: Where have you been accommodated (name of dormitory, location, part of town, etc.)? How would you descr be the surroundings of your accommodation (shopping facilities, distance to the city center, nightlife, etc.)?

The flat I stayed in was directly next to the cathedral of Granada and therefore in the citycentre. The part of Granada is called "Centro-Sagrario". There are several shopping facilities nearby such as "Coviran" or "Carrefour". There is also an "ALDI" in Granada but to get there it is easier to take the bus. Granada is a rather small city so it is not difficult to reach almost everything by feet. Most of Granada's nightlife is also reachable by walking as almost everything is located in or near the city centre.

## 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 about two weeks before classes started and i would say that it was good to have some time to get to know the city, its surroundings and also to find a flat. The search for accomodation did not take very long so i had some spare time to get informed about the city and do some first activities. I also heard from others that only arrived a few days before the start of classes and they did not have any trouble finding accomodation in time neither.

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?

When i first arrived i had already booked a hostel for three nights so i had time to find a flat and had some time to get to know the city. I flew to Málaga and then took the bus to Granada. In my first days in Granada i went to a language school which i found very useful to get used to the language as well as meeting some people. The orientation program that was organized by the University consisted of an event where they gave us some general information, a specific event at the faculty and a welcoming event in the science museum of Granada where we had free entrance afterwards. In my opinion especially the event at the faculty was quite helpful to get first questions answered. There are several organizations for Erasmus students such as "Best life experience" that offer an amount of spare time activities but i did not participate in those as those activities can also be organized on your own.

## 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?

In the city centre there are supermarkets like "Coviran", "Carrefour" or "Mercadona" that are quite similar to german supermarkets. There is also an "Aldi" in Granada which is located near the bus station and it is easier to get there by bus if you are living in the city centre. There is also the "Mercado San Agustin" which is a market that offers meat and fish but also some fruits and vegetables. There are several markets throughout the week at different spots in the city, for example on Plaza Larga which is in an area called "Albayzin". I usually bought fruits and vegetables at either the markets or the so-called "Fruterias" that you can find everywhere in the city.

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?

The University of Granada does not offer a semester ticket, but usually it is not necessary to go anywhere by bus as almost everything can be reached by foot. Only to get to the central bus station it might be useful to take the bus which costs 1,20Euro per ride. Additional expenses i pretty much only had for free time activities like travelling or excursions. At first it was not very easy to get to know spanish students at my faculty for a variety of reasons. With the time it got easier to get in contact with them and also to get to know some of them, but i have to say that most of my friends i found off campus at different occasions. The cafeterias and mensas of the University offer different meals per day one of those is a vegeterian option. The University has different libraries and Wi-Fi on campus. The libraries were quite full throughout the exam phase but there were other rooms available as well. The University offers a variety of sportive and cultural activities as well.

## 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 chose courses from different years but mostly from the third year. In one of my courses there were only around 20 other students while i also had courses with around 60 other students and group works are common. In general the teaching methods and structure appeared more like high school to me than the University standard i was used to from germany. We got homeworks from time to time that we had to hand in after one week but sometimes the professors only gave us texts to read. We had each course two times a week while they should have been separated in theoretical and more practical units. I experienced that discussions and interactive lessons were not as usual as in my classes in germany and often it was the professors talking while the students took notes. As an Erasmus student the professors mostly were quite kind, but sometimes the language still was a little bit stressing. Some of the professors talk pretty fast and with an accent that might be difficult to understand at times.

## Final Remarks

a) How satisfied were you with your stay abroad?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sehr zufrieden <input type="checkbox"/> zufrieden <input type="checkbox"/> unzufrieden <input type="checkbox"/> sehr unzufrieden
b) Which skills were you able to develop during your stay abroad?	<p>When i chose Spain as the country i wanted to go to for my Erasmus i definitely also chose it to be able to improve my language skills in Spanish. After staying there for the semester i have the feeling that i was able to improve it in a way that i now feel more secure when speaking in Spanish and also feel that i am able to read academic texts. While the language skills for sure was the most impressive aspect for me there were several other areas i had the opportunity to have a look at. For example to get to know a quite different system of learning Social Work and also to get in contact with people from all over the world, as Granada is one of the most popular cities for exchange students. The semester was a great opportunity to develop language skills, as well as sometimes English skills and to get to know people from different contexts while living a similar experience.</p>
c) Given the same circumstances, would you repeat your stay abroad?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 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?	<p>In my opinion Granada is a great city to do Erasmus at. Although the study system might be quite different from Germany i was still able to learn a lot in different areas like for example in European issues. As an exchange student it might be difficult at first to get to know other Spanish students, even more when the language is a barrier, but in my experience the students as well as the professors are very welcoming and open to help you with all kinds of issues. Off campus there are lots of things to explore inside and outside of the city so boredom is not something i experienced often. The way Spanish professors treat their students impressed me in many occasions. They usually try to engage their students in the different topics, even though the system does not allow many critical discussions. Throughout the semester i was able to improve my Spanish skills to a level that i now feel quite secure and can now understand academic texts which might be useful for my future studies.</p>

## Additional page:

Please complete the following sentence: My exchange semester will remain unforgettable because...	... all the experiences i made, the people i met and dozens of things i got to know have not only influenced a period of my life but will influence it from now on over and over again.
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## 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).	F1030018.JPG
Foto für Erfahrungsbericht	IMG-20160917-WA0045.jpg
Foto für Erfahrungsbericht	IMG-20160919-WA0019.jpg
Foto für Erfahrungsbericht	IMG-20161119-WA0010.jpg
Foto für Erfahrungsbericht	IMG-20161202-WA0004.jpg