

## Personal Report

### Cork Institute of Technology, Winter Term, 2018/19, 1 Semester Geomatics and Public Works, Fachbereich 1, Frankfurt

#### Language

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

I used English to talk to lecturers and fellow students.

#### Accommodation

**Did the host university arrange for accommodation?**

Yes in a private accommodation.

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

520€

**How would you describe the quality of your accommodation?**

Good.

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

My home was located in a good neighborhood about 20 mins by foot from the University.

**Which web sites, forums, Facebook pages, contacts, etc. can you recommend for looking for accommodation?**

Ask the accommodation office of the partner university and maybe have a look on Homestay, which is a website.

**Where have you been accommodated (name of dormitory, location, part of town, etc.)? And how would you describe the surroundings of your accommodation (shopping facilities, distance to the city center, nightlife, etc.?)**

I rented a room in a house pretty close to University. There was a bus stop nearby that took me to the shops like Coles, Aldi and Lidl or into the town center. Many sport fields were close to my location and there was one bar not too far away as well. The student's accommodations Edenhall, where loads of students lived, were about 50 mins by foot.

## **Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation**

### **Which is the best arrival time?**

A couple of days before university starts to get settled down.

### **How did you organize your arrival? Was the extent of the orientation program sufficient? What activities can you recommend? 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?**

The orientation program was a great help as they explained where which rooms and facilities were. I got in contact with domestic students as soon as university started. They provided great services for the students which include sports facilities, a canteen, study rooms and computers.

## **Living Abroad**

### **Compared to Frankfurt, how high was the cost of living abroad?**

Higher, it cost about 150%

### **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 Mensa's/ 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?**

Most additional expenses were travelling around Ireland and going into the city center. The library was good and had some study corners, which got quite busy during examination weeks. They provided computers which were free to use and printers that would cost only a little bit of money. There is Wi-Fi on the campus and the possibility to rent separated group study rooms.

## **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? 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?**

The teaching methods and class structure are quite similar. Most professors knew I was an International student and helped me when it came to preparing the computers which the domestic students have already learned.

## **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?**

If you have any questions or concerns just ask fellow students and your lecturers for help, they are happy to help.