

Personal Report

Mykolas Romeris University, Wintersemester 2018/19, 1 Semester Social Work transnational, Fachbereich 4, Frankfurt

Language

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

I used English in the university lectures and I also took classes in basic Lithuanian.

Accommodation

Did the host university arrange for accommodation?

Yes, in a dormitory.

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

85€

How would you describe the quality of your accommodation?

Very bad.

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

The dormitory was right next to the university which was really good (5 min walk)

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

I can't recommend any services because I lived in the student dormitory.

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.?)

The dormitory is the official one in Didlaukio gatve 57. The surroundings were just industrial areas and therefore not really good for spending free time. Unfortunately the city Center is located 40 minutes from the student house.

Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation

Which is the best arrival time?

The best arrival time is at the beginning of the semester to experience the introductory weeks.

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?

I arrived two days earlier than the official start. In this way I was able to meet with some people before. This was a perfect opportunity but the introductory weeks were also really good for meeting new people.

Living Abroad

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

Lower, it cost about 75%

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?

Additional expenses I only had during my travels and my free time. The nightlife is very big in Vilnius, which is perfect for weekends. In the university is a quite big library which provides a lot of space for all the students. The university also provides a sport program which was free of charge but also not really suitable with the study times.

Studying at the Host University

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

A little 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? 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 were more practically orientated. More group work and discussions were included. Moreover I was surprised by the fact that most of the courses were just for Erasmus students. I think that some teachers took that into account and were nicer with the final 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, linguistically for your future career?

Future exchange students should know that the student dormitory is in a really bad condition and almost all students had problems with bed bugs. To summarize I am still really happy with my semester abroad and I met many amazing people and learned a lot about myself.