

Personal Report

Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, Summersemester 2019, 1 Semester

Social Work: transnational, Fachbereich 4, Frankfurt

Language

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

We used English in all our classes.

I also tried to learn a little bit of Dutch. Unfortunately, the University did not offer any language courses! If possible, it would be nice if they would change that in the future! I really wanted to learn Dutch properly but language courses in the city centre were way too expensive.

Accommodation

Did the host university arrange for accommodation?

Yes, in a dormitory .

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

430€

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)?

I really liked my accommodation. It is a very old studenthome, but with a lot of charm. I stayed in the 11th floor and had an amazing view with the most beautiful sunset everyday.

It took me 15mins by bike to go to the city centre and just 10mins by metro. To the University it took me about 25mins by bike and 20mins by Metro. That may sound far, but it wasn't. The way by bike through the city centre was always very enjoyable!!!

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

DeKey offered me some rooms.

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 lived in H.Cleyndertweg in the Noord.

The Noord in general is super amazing to live. Very green and lots of nice activities, bars, cafes and beautiful bike routes.

I had a shopping centre close by with a weekly market with fresh products like fruits and vegetables.

But it is definitely necessary to have a bike here to get in touch with this beautiful surrounding of the Noord!

Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation

Which is the best arrival time?

I came for the summer semester. I would choose the summer again!

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?

Mostly I looked up for events in Facebook. But also the orientation program was sufficient to get around and learn more about the city and nightlife activities.

If you have any problems or questions the IO was always reachable to get information.

I usually found things I wanted to know by myself through the internet and fellow students.

Living Abroad

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

Similar to Frankfurt.

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?

Drinks, Party, Museums, Bars, public transports, Boat trips, renting a bike.

The campus was amazing. Very modern and new with light positive colors. I loved to hang out there. The food in the mensa was also good. They mostly offered small snacks for lunch like sandwiches, soups, salads, wraps, sweets and pizza. Also some vegan food. The price was around 2-5€ per meal.

The library was free to use and they had a lot of space in there. Places to lie down, to sit in groups of for your own. Nice light green colors and paintings around. Stations to take coffee and tea. Open windows and lots of open spaces in the whole University to sit, relax or study (Daran könnte sich Frankfurt gerne ein Beispiel nehmen ;-))

Also the Sports programme was super nice!!!! They have a gym with lots of different courses every day. It costs around 70€ for 6 month, but totally worth it!!! I went there 2-3 times a week. I LOVE this sports studio! And I will definitely miss it a lot in Frankfurt!!:-)

Studying at the Host University

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

They expect a little more

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?

Yes, more positively, and openminded, giving students the feeling to be one group and teachers always had time for us. Real positive Psychology teaching style!

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?

Rent a bike! In my opinion the only way to get the real Amsterdam feeling!!!!!!