

## Personal Report

University of Aruba, Wintersemester 2018/19, 1 Semester

Soziale Arbeite, Fachbereich 4, Frankfurt

### Language

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

I used English. My friends were from Holland, so I learned a little bit of Dutch because of that, but I spoke mostly English with them.

### Accommodation

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

No, they did not.

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

500€

**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)?**

The accommodation was close to Uni. It took me 10 minutes with the car to go to University.

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

The website of the University.

**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.?)**

Hotel Perle d'Or in Noord. There is a supermarket which can be reached by walking. For the other shops and the Nightlife a car is necessary.

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

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

1 Week before the Semester starts.

### **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 came 2 weeks before the Orientation week started and it was enough time to get used to the heat and the surrounding. The Orientation week was really helpful to get all the information. Since I lived with a lot of Dutch people who did their internship on Aruba. That's why I did not really get in contact with the other Erasmus students, even though there were a lot of possibilities.

## **Living Abroad**

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

Higher, it cost about 200%.

### **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 messes/ 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?**

Car, gas, food, drinks. I did not have a semester ticket. My life off-campus consisted of beach and the Nightlife. The University has a cafeteria, where you can buy small snacks like pastiches, fries and candies; it was really cheap and affordable. The library is really small and there is not much space for studying, but for the faculty of social work I could find there all the books I needed for my courses. They also provide computers and Wi-Fi. There were also some classrooms where I could study.

## **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 classes were much smaller which led to really interesting discussions. The teachers know you by name and they are not really strict with the deadlines, but that depends also on the teacher. The teacher did not treat me differently as the local students.

## **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?**

I had a really good time and I would do it again if I had the opportunity but the island is also really small and you have to get used to that. If you have the right people around you, it can be a very good experience. I also would recommend hiring a car for the exchange.