

Personal Report

Norwegian University of Science, WiSe 2021/22, 1 Semester FB1 – Urban Agglomerations - Bachelor

Language

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

English was the major language for my exchange study. I also learned the A1 Norwegian language in the Intensive course to learn some basic communication and use throughout my stay in Norway. We mostly used the English language to communicate with students because of the International study program.

How well were you able to follow classes linguistically at the partner institution? Did the partner university provide language classes?

I could follow the classes well. The university provided an intensive language course.

Accommodation

Did the host university arrange for accommodation? How would you describe the quality of your accommodation?

Yes, they provided dormitories and the quality was good.

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

385€

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 the city centre, and the university campus was accessible by 15 minutes walking. Public transportation was also accessible which helped me during bad weather conditions.

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

Sit-StudentBoliger is the student association that provides the dormitory in Trondheim Cty for NTNU students. NUNU also provides the booking code to book a dormitory.
<https://hybel.sit.no/houses?searchFilter=eyJib29sljp7Im11c3QiOlt7Im1hdGN0X2FsbCI6e319XSwiZmlsdGVyIjpbeyJ0ZXJtljp7ImhvdXNpbmdUeXBlljowfX1dfX0%3D#1:11>

Where have you been accommodated (name of dormitory, location, part of town, etc.)?

I was accommodated in the Sit housing/dormitory that was arranged by the host University in a shared apartment. It was in the main city close to city center and university main campus. As this dormitory was in residential zone, all supermarkets for grocery were accessible by walking. During my stay, I observed that Norway country is safe for walking and nightlife.

Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation

How did you organize your arrival? 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?

As the world is fighting with the COVID-19 pandemic, everyone knows this pandemic changed everyone's life and their journey. For me, it was not as good as I had expected. However, I could reach successfully and safely at my destination. The orientation program was digital, and the introduction by the department was partially digital and in person. We were welcomed by the professors and had a campus tour with all students and professors. In our batch, we had three domestic students who helped us to explore and guide us about the national rules in the country and told us about the student facilities provided to the international students.

Living Abroad

Compared to Frankfurt, how high was the cost of living abroad? What additional expenses did you have during your semester abroad?

It was about 150% higher than the costs in Frankfurt. I can recommend REMA1000, Bunnpris, Extra; there are supermarkets that are more affordable than others and available everywhere within 800-metre distance from the university and dormitory.

How far were you able to travel with your semester ticket? How were the libraries? Was their use free? Did the university provide computer workplaces/ computer pools? Was Wi-Fi available on-campus? Did the university provide a sports program? Was this free of charge?

I was miserable when I had paid 490 Euros for the visa fee to get additional two months because I was allowed to stay only three months with a Schengen visa in Norway. The University does not provide student tickets; public transport is expensive in Norway compared to Germany. The day ticket costs 12 euro, and a single ticket costs 4 euro valid for 24 hours and 1.5 hours respectively. The monthly student is also available with 52 euros with a valid student card. Grocery is one of the most expensive in Norway 200% more than Germany. University has free wifi connection entire campus, and several activities are there we can participate in leisure time. The University also provides free printing services on campus with the amount limit amount of 300 NOK on student cards.

Studying at the Host University

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

A bit more 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?

As I observed teaching methods was the same as Frankfurt university. I was taught by the same level of educated and experienced professors in the host university. The difference I could witness was only the oncampus teaching that I missed in Frankfurt due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our batch has a separate studio room that is combined with our senior which is interesting to discuss and share study-related issues.

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 developed new software skills and many communication skills during the fieldwork survey that will help me with my future study and goals. I would recommend NTNU University for exchange to the future students to develop their skills not only academically but personally also. The study program at NTNU University is connected to practical fieldwork where we can explore and learn many skills and learn to solve the ground issue in our society which will help us academically and for our future careers. I would rate this exchange program 9.5 out of 10. My exchange in Norway will always be unforgettable because this exchange program made new connections with professors and new international friends. I also made domestic links that will always help me in my future journey in Norway. I had a great time in Norway and NTNU campus throughout my stay. I would thank the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences and the partner NTNU University for creating this opportunity for international students to learn and explore a new country in this Erasmus Exchange program.