

Personal Report

Cracow University of Economics, Wintersemester 2018/19, 2 Semester International Business Administration, Fachbereich 3, Frankfurt

Language

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

The level of english of some professors weren't satisfactory, but good enough to follow. I improved a bit by practicing a lot with other exchange students in every day conversations.

Accommodation

Did the host university arrange for accommodation?

No, unfortunately not.

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

375€

How would you describe the quality of your accommodation?

Very good.

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

Between Kazimierz and Old Town (most frequently visited spots beside university). To university it took me 20 min walking.

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

I found my shared flat on <http://www.myerasmus.pl/krakow/flats> and the agency was "Just Home". They were very supportive, had nice apartments in good locations and were totally professional and reliable. They are also used to exchange students.

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?)

North of Kazimierz (Jewish Quarter). Shared flat with two other Erasmus students. Close to all main spots like bars, clubs, restaurants, etc.

A big supermarket (Biedronka) was around the corner (5 min walk).

Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation

Which is the best arrival time?

Don't miss the integration week (+camp)! You'll meet the people, you'll most probably spend the whole semester with. Very important for networking!

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 got to Krakow by plane. The orientation program was more for social aspects. But you can easily contact the international office to get answers to all organizational matters. It was harder to get in contact with domestic students, but it is possible, when you make the first step. Later they helped me a lot with internal information in regards to Professors, exams, etc...

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?

There are 3 mensas on the campus. All are decent and cheap (ca. 3,50€ for a lunch including soup). In one you should bring a polish friend to overcome the language barrier. The other two are speaking english. Main spot on the campus is the cafe "zauek". You'll always meet people there. They offer sandwiches, coffee and beer/wine. The library is offering computer workplaces. There is a weekly sports meeting for erasmus students, free of charge. I joined the gym "My Fitness Place". You can cancel the subscription monthly. Ca. 13€ per month as a student. Well located and modern. I didn't use the tram much, because I could walk everywhere, but the tram system is the easiest mean of transportation and brings you everywhere in/around Krakow. They use "eduroam" as well. If you have problems with connecting, contact the IT department, they will assist.

Studying at the Host University

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

A little bit easier.

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 system is more like school than university. Teachers expect attendance and interaction. Anyhow it is not very strict, so you can usually miss some classes. It is divided in classes and lectures. Lectures are usually not obligatory. Anyhow it all depends on the teacher. Go to the first class/lecture and ask about the attendance policy of the course. The teachers were generally very supportive, especially to Erasmus 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?

Make the most of the time by going out, traveling, etc. You'll have enough time for that, since the university is not very demanding. Krakow is a real Erasmus experience. If you're looking for that, Krakow is the right place for you.