

Personal Report

Lapland University of Applied Sciences, summer semester 2019, 1 Semester Social Work, Fachbereich 4, Frankfurt

Language

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

Most of the time I used English (in the university and with the other students). In my practical training I didn't communicate so much because the children only spoke Finnish. Therefore I had an intensive class, but this didn't help so much. With my supervisor I could speak English.

Accommodation

Did the host university arrange for accommodation?

Yes, in private accommodations.

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

310€

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)?

In the city center but to the university I had to walk 30 minutes. Bus is too expensive and bicycle too dangerous because of the snow and frozen streets.

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

None

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.?)

In the city center, close to bars, shops and the other exchange students. But the city was really small so everything was close.

Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation

Which is the best arrival time?

One day before.

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?

Everything was really good organized and informative. The university helped me to organize my arrival (pick up service) and they also did a city tour. The students I meet at the first day and the exchange tutors were the whole semester with us. The teachers answered fast to emails.

To my practical training I had to go on my own.

Living Abroad

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

Lower, it costs 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?

I had to buy a lot of warm winter clothes.

During the winter it was not possible to do many activities outside. But we did still a lot. But most of the things were not so cheap. Except for example seeing the northern light (gratis). The university organized some thinks to a really good price.

There was a student discount in the Mensa (2,60€/ on plate served by yourself). In my practical training I could eat gratis.

Library, computer, Wi-Fi and printing were free.

Depends on the sport program it was also free or not.

Studying at the Host University

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

Much 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 academic standard was really easy. Depends on the lecture it was organized really well and the teaching methods similar to Frankfurt. But I had on lecture which was very bad and not so good organized. I didn't learn something. In generally exchange students are only able to do lectures which are not so useful. But the teachers were always nice and helpful.

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 would repeat an Erasmus in generally, but I am not sure if I would repeat it in Kemi. Even when the organization and ever thing around was really good, I would not recommend the lectures that exchange students can do. Also in the practical training it was difficult because I could speak only a little Finnish and the people were not so open.