

Personal Report

University of Ljubljana, Winter Term 2018/19, 1 Semester Soziale Arbeit: Transnational, Fachbereich 4, Frankfurt

Language

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

I mainly used English during my stay in Ljubljana. All my courses were held in English and most of the professors had a very good level of English. The communication with other students was also mainly in English. I tried to participate in a Slovene language course, which was organized by the ESN Ljubljana but the course was postponed several times and the end I was not able to take part in that class because of my schedule. I would say that my spoken and written English improved during my stay especially because I had to write several scientific essays in English.

Accommodation

Did the host university arrange for accommodation?

Yes, in a dormitory.

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

140€

How would you describe the quality of your accommodation?

Bad

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

I stayed in the student dormitory which is located close to the Tivoli Park. By bike I was able to reach my faculty in 15 minutes. This was for me the easiest way. The other option was using the public transport. There was the possibility for a student monthly bus ticket for 20 Euro per month.

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

There is a Facebook group which is provided by the Erasmus coordinator Borut. This was really helpful. Besides that, Borut supports you with finding an accommodation.

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 stayed in the student dormitory (Svetceva ulica 9) close to Rozna dolina. I stayed in a double bed room, which I shared with a girl from Spain. The facilities, like bathroom and kitchen, was shared with at least 15 other people from the same floor.

Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation

Which is the best arrival time?

The University of Ljubljana offers a language course, which is 3 weeks before the semester starts. I think it is quite nice to join that course, because you are able to get your first experiences with the language for free.

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 planned to arrive one week before the semester started, so I could get an orientation of the city. I would say one week is quite a good amount of time for doing that. The orientation program, which was provided from the host university, was quite good. We had 4 student mentors, who opened a WhatsApp group for us. They were very open-minded and asked us for our wishes. This was also a nice way to get in to contact with domestic students. Besides that, the contact with domestic students rarely happened for me. I just visited one course, in which the participating students were mixed. The other courses were mainly organized for Erasmus students only.

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?

Instead of using the public transport I bought myself a second hand bicycle but as far as I know you can use your monthly ticket in whole Ljubljana. Because of the small size of the city I was able to see my friends from the university almost every day. Mostly we met for having a common meal at the restaurant of a coffee. In Ljubljana there is only one or two mensas I actually never visited because of the "Studenski Boni" system. This actually makes it possible to go to the restaurant quite often. Every month you receive like student 20 meals. The student meals cost in average 2-4 Eur. There is a pc pool in the faculty and you're allowed to use the library of your own faculty as well as the libraries or other faculties. The university provides a sport program but somehow it was difficult for the Erasmus students to participate in that program because the timespan in which you are able to apply for the university sport is quite short.

Studying at the Host University

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

Similar to Frankfurt.

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 courses at the Faculty of Social Work are tailored almost exclusively for Erasmus students. I took the following courses this semester: Gender and Violence, Social Anthropology, Human Rights & Advocacy, Criminal Law and Criminology Basics and Internship.

The courses Social Anthropology and Human Rights & Advocacy took place in the form of frontal lessons. The lecturer has i. d. lectured for one hour and then asked a discussion question to the students. The remaining subjects were designed in the form of an open discussion. Especially in the theoretical part of the internship, it was about an individual reflection on the experiences that were collected at the practical site. Fundamental texts, which were discussed in plenary, mainly played a role in gender and violence.

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?

Personally I would say that only people, who really enjoy to party, should move to Dorm 4 (the cheaper option for staying in the dormitory). People, who prefer privacy, should look for a shared flat, because sharing a room for 4 month can be challenging. If you plan to move into the dormitory bring yourself a plate and some basic cooking stuff. Otherwise, you have to buy it here and although there are cheap options for buying it, it might be an expense that you'll later regret. Bring yourself a lunchbox. Most probably you will often visit restaurants because of the studenski boni system and take-away costs more. As a student you have a special offer at "Renty", a company which rents cars. You definitely should rent a car and discover the beautiful nature of Slovenia.