

Personal Report

Sapienza University of Rome, winter semester 2017/18, 1 Semester Architektur, Fachbereich 1, Frankfurt

Language

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

Mainly English, especially in the end switched to Italian.

Accommodation

Did the host university arrange for accommodation?

Yes a private flat.

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

500€

How would you describe the quality of your accommodation?

Very well.

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

It was a touristic area, because of the close Vatican. My flat was really clean and compared to other accommodation really spacey. Close to the city center and in walkable distance to the University.

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

Easystanza, Erasmusu, AirBnB, Facebook

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 was living in Roma Aruelia/Boccea. If you prefer living in a student area, I recommend Garbatella and San Lorenzo.

Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation

Which is the best arrival time?

You should arrive one month before the start of the semester. You better arrive in September for the winter term and in February for the spring term.

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?

My arrival was organized by myself. Domestic students were really nice and helped out whenever they could.

Living Abroad

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

Similar to FRA UAS.

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?

The travel opportunities were mostly during the semester. Cafeterias and eating opportunities had a great quality and were always affordable. Places to work at the computer were not offered. All students had to work with their own computers and materials. You have to buy a monthly ticket for public transportations – was really cheap in comparison to Germany (35€) You can use that ticket to get to the beach.

Studying at the Host University

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

More intense.

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?

Some teachers were talking really bad English. I was facing closed doors during the semester, because teachers did not respond to my mails asking whether the lecture would take place. The overall offer of papers is very small.

The teaching methods had a different kind of flow. The work of students in class was more like a working lap. Being an incoming student was extraordinary. Teachers offered special explanation hours and a lot more time for you.

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?

Roma and its people did surprise me every day. There is always something to explore and even the city has a lot of events which were making my stay unforgettable. I met a lot of people and I am looking forward seeing them in a couple of months.