

## Personal Report

### Zürich University of Applied Sciences, winter semester 2017/18, 1 Semester International Finance, Fachbereich 3, Frankfurt

#### Language

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

The classes were taught either in German or Swiss German. The other students were communicating in Swiss German which helped me to improve my Swiss German. In our dorm, students were mainly speaking English, which helped me to improve my English as well.

#### Accommodation

**Did the host university arrange for accommodation?**

Yes, I had a place in a dorm (Camp AXA).

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

545€

**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)?**

The accommodation was situated in a very nice area. It was very central and it only took 10 minutes to walk up to University. Directly in front of the door was a bus and train station which made it easy to .

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

The International Office of ZHAW had contact with the dorm, otherwise I suggest to visit [www. Wg-gesucht.de](http://www.Wg-gesucht.de)

**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 accommodated in Altstetten, which was very central and the expenses for the accommodation was fine. It is located next to the river Limat and offered a lot of possibilities

for swimming and other activities without any charge. In Altstetten, you find a lot of shops and a optimal travel connection with night busses and trains.

## **Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation**

### **Which is the best arrival time?**

If possible, I suggest arriving before the welcome week.

### **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?**

The arrival was arranged by the International office of ZHAW. If there were any questions, teachers were willed to help you. My registration, the appointment at the "Migrationsamt" and my train ticket were organized by myself and worked perfectly fine. You can find all the relevant documents on their website.

The contact with domestic students was easily arranged with our lunch break (1h) and a lot of group work during University which made it very easy to find new friends.

## **Living Abroad**

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

Higher, 200%

### **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?**

My additional expenses were a result of the high costs in Switzerland. The expenses for the dorm were higher than the ones here and my train ticket was around 55€. On campus you should definitely check out the roof terrace where you can spend very nice lunch breaks. I did not use the cafeteria, because it was too expensive (average price of 8€+ for one meal). I suggest the tea kitchen where you can heat up your food. I definitely suggest the "Studentenbar Mehrspur" on the ground floor of ZHAW where you can get beer for 5€ every day until 5pm. The library and sports classes are similar to the ones at FRA UAS.

## **Studying at the Host University**

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

The models and exams were almost the same like the ones at FRA UAS. The seminars contain a lot of group work and assignments that had to be uploaded on Moodle. The studies are

much more intense and you have to invest a lot of workload, therefore you get a very deep knowledge. In the majority of classes I was welcomed personally and was offered to talk to the teachers if there were any problems.

**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?**

One main difference between the classes at ZHAW and FRA UAS is important to mention: The classes take place on 3 days and focus on specific concepts, methods and theories. I suggest choosing classes that focus on topics you are familiar with and have a basic knowledge.

## **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 believe that it is necessary to already have strong social skills for a successful and happy exchange semester. This is necessary to quickly connect and to organize your own life in a new country. That starts with the registration in the new city and goes over to structuring your classes at a new university. This requires a high degree of initiative and organizational skills. I enjoyed my semester abroad very much and on the one hand I am sad that time has passed so quickly, on the other hand I am very grateful and glad to have had this experience.

Professionally, I was able to benefit greatly from the seminars in particular. Personally, the time has had a very positive effect on my job. I am much more independent and have always been able to show initiative. Linguistically, I was able to improve my English skills from good to fluent.