

Personal Report

Neapolis University Pafos - Zypern, WiSe 2021/22, 1 Semester FB3 – International Finance - Bachelor

Language

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

We spoke exclusively in English. The other students were all able to understand me - some more, some less. Communication was still possible without any problems. I would say that my English did not improve much abroad, but I learned some words and phrases in the languages of the other exchange students.

How well were you able to follow classes linguistically at the partner institution? Did the partner university provide language classes?

I could very well follow the classes. The university did not provide any language classes during the semester.

Accommodation

Did the host university arrange for accommodation? How would you describe the quality of your accommodation?

Yes, they provided private dormitories and the quality was good.

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

500€

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

I moved into an accommodation about 25-30 min walk from the university and lived there for the first two months. The apartment (in Universal, Pafos) was top, but for me too far away from everything. After the two months I moved with another exchange student to an apartment 5 min from the university. However, you can also book the student dormitory, then you live in the university.

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

For my search I used Facebook groups. Otherwise you can also use bazaraki, which is similar to ebay

Where have you been accommodated (name of dormitory, location, part of town, etc.)?

My first apartment in Universal was very good, but also expensive (800€ per month). It was a little further away from everything - about 25min to the university, the beach and the harbor, but only 2min to a small supermarket. There were two bus stops, although the buses only left there every hour/two hours. The second apartment I shared and it was not particularly great, but definitely sufficient. There I paid 350€ monthly and it was 5min from the university and the beach and about 20min from the harbor and a big supermarket. However, at this apartment there was a bus stop where the bus left every 10min. I would recommend you to look for someone who wants to share an apartment with you. You can ask the IO of the NUP if they can give out your contact details. Also, the apartments in Cyprus get super cold in the winter. So you might want to make sure that electricity is included, as it can get expensive.

Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation**Which is the best arrival time?**

I arrived a week before the introduction week, just like most of them. That was perfect.

How did you organize your arrival? 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?

There was an introductory week where a speech was given, there was a tour of the university and a buffet. In addition, we Erasmus students had a WhatsApp group in which we regularly arranged meetings. Through the WhatsApp group, we were able to get to know each other quickly. In addition, the university organized other parties and, for example, a New Year's brunch.

Living Abroad**Compared to Frankfurt, how high was the cost of living abroad? What additional expenses did you have during your semester abroad?**

It was similar to the costs in Frankfurt. The larger supermarkets (Papantoniou, Lidl, Alphamega, Poplife) are usually cheaper than the smaller ones near the beach.

How far were you able to travel with your semester ticket? How were the libraries? Was their use free? Did the university provide computer workplaces/ computer pools? Was Wi-Fi available on-campus? Did the university provide a sports program? Was this free of charge?

I had a bus ticket for students. You can get one at the port. You need your NUP student card, your ID and 20€ per month.

Studying at the Host University

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

A bit 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?

The lectures and the relationship with the lecturers is much more relaxed there. We were usually only 10-15 students in a lecture and accordingly it is also required that you participate a little. The expectations are lower, but there are regular activities that you have to upload, a mid-term (exam or term paper) and an exam at the end of the semester.

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?

The main skills I have improved are my communication skills. Not only improving language skills but also being more open and talkative. My experience was amazing, I had such a good times with the other students I met there. I recommend you to be open to meet new people, learn new languages and go for trips to see new places all around Cyprus. The semester has definitely made me much more independent and open-minded. My exchange semester will remain unforgettable because of all the experiences I made and all the amazing people I met. I will definitely never forget them and meet them in their homes countries which is also an really nice chance. I saw great places which amazed and surprised me and inspired me to travel more.