

Personal Report

University of Ljubljana, winter semester 2021/22

Social Work: transnational, FB 4, Frankfurt

Language

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

I spoke mostly in English. Because I actually wanted to do a course in Slovenian, but it was too expensive for me (and it was also online, which would not be worth the money). My English has not gotten any better or worse.

Accommodation

Did the host university arrange for accommodation?

Yes, in a student dorm.

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

180 euro.

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)?

The Accommodation was very close to the faculty. It was around 15 minutes' walk. There were 2 other dormitories which the University offered, but they would have been 30 minutes by bus at least.

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

Mainly 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.?)

Dorm D in Bezigrad. There is a Lidl 5 minutes away. Buses very close by. City center around 10 minutes by bus and that's where the nightlife is.

Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation

Which is the best arrival time?

The best arrival time is 2 weeks before it starts. If you start in the summer semester come earlier and enjoy the beautiful city. For the winter semester the best way to get a bit of sun is coming in August or September.

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 did not organize much since I was not sure how long I might be able to stay due to Covid and Lockdown measures. Its best to have an accommodation which is not binding and to not book a return ticket yet. The best way to gather information is when you arrive because you can contact people in person. (ESN, student network, neighbors, other exchange students).

Living Abroad

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

Lesser about 50%

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 Mensa's/ 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 mainly travel, with ESN and going out to eat or have a drink. The University provides a sports program but I think it costs monthly (did not use it so I don't know). The workplaces and libraries are free or pretty cheap monthly. There is a bike system where you can use bikes per hour. (only for 3 euros).

Studying at the Host University

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

Much more easier.

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?

I think we were graded more fairly because we were exchange students but the classes were still somewhat challenging. I was a bit disappointed with the lectures, especially because they were held online after a month and were not organized properly.

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 think my main skill was to not compare my experience to other experiences. Live your life and know your boundaries. If you do not want to go out as much as others it does not mean that your experience is less nice. Overall, I would rate it like a 6,5/10. It was a nice experience and I was able to see places during Covid especially since Slovenia had very high cases throughout my stay. I would repeat it only if there is not a pandemic, because it is very limiting and the worry will stay throughout your exchange (unless you do not care about it). Being able to live abroad for a semester and experience a different culture and mindset is always beneficial!