

Experience report of Erasmus Programme

I joined the master programme “Environmental Science” in University of Hohenheim in the Autumn of 2016. As a part of the programme, it is mandatory for us to choose a host university from other 3 universities across Europe to study in the second year. At the end of my first year in Hohenheim, we were informed about the procedures of applying Erasmus Programme online. I’ve decided to choose University of Copenhagen to spend the second year of study, the same as many of students in my programme. We received much useful information from our coordinator in Hohenheim and in the host university. The online application for the Erasmus was not complicated and the instructions were very clear.

Before we headed to the host university, we needed to choose lectures that we want to take and also fulfill the credit requirement. The curriculum of our programme in the host university was provided and the course description was very helpful. I also took some advice from the former student and friends who have already studied in the host university.

Due to the stressful accommodation situation in Copenhagen, it is better to find my housing before I arrive at there. The host university has an online housing system for international students which provided me a variety of housing opportunity, therefore I was lucky to find a room before my arrival. The average rent in Copenhagen is much higher than in Stuttgart, so I can only afford to a room that is shared with another girl. But it was also fun and we became good friends.

I also needed to apply for a Danish visa since I’m not from EU. The procedures of applying a study visa to Denmark can be easily found in their website and they were really friendly and helpful to answer my questions by phone. The coordinator in the host university also gave much support.

After I arrived in Copenhagen, the host university held welcome event for international student to make them easier to settle down. In the several weeks before semester began, they organized activities like guide tour of the campus for new students to familiarize the university and the city. It took me a while to get everything done.

After the semester began, I took two lectures in Frederiksberg Campus. The teaching style in University of Copenhagen is quite different from it in Hohenheim. We did many activities during lectures and also excursions. We presented our posters and designed

a garden on a pizza cardboard. I participated much in the class and our interactions with teacher was really good. The most impressive lecture I took was Climate Solutions. We did a report of GHG emission of a local theater and came up with a plan to help them emit less in the future. We learned basic knowledge of GHG accounting and calculations and improvement solutions using different methods. Team spirit was also built during our group work. I also learned better the local cultural life.

As I mentioned before, the housing situation in Copenhagen was pretty stressful. I found a room shared with another girl in a very nice neighborhood, which is about 30 minutes by bike from the campus. It is a student dormitory therefore I met many new friends during the welcome dinner in our building who also studied in University of Copenhagen. I discovered the city with them and spent a lot of good time together. During the weekend, I often went to the gym or to different events posted on Facebook. When the weather got warmer, I liked to ride to a close big park or enjoyed a lovely day on the beach near my place. Copenhagen is really a vibrate and energetic city which you can always discover more.

In conclusion, my experience in Copenhagen was unforgettable. I am really glad that I had the chance to study and spent a year in there. Although the winter in Copenhagen was not that pleasant, I still had the best abroad study experience ever.