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Erfahrungsbericht Auslandsstudium

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[x] Ja [] Nein
- 2) **Darf auf Anfrage eines interessierten Viadrina-Studierenden Ihr Erfahrungsbericht samt Ihrer Kontaktdaten an diese/n weitergegeben werden?**
[x] Ja [] Nein
- 3) **Bitte bestätigen Sie, dass Sie im Erfahrungsbericht nicht direkt die Namen dritter Personen (Dozierende/-r, Vermietende/-r) aufführen.**
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Es würde uns freuen, wenn Sie auf folgende Punkte eingehen (der Bericht sollte mindestens 2 Seiten haben, für die maximale Anzahl an Seiten gibt es keine Begrenzung):

- **Vorbereitung**

When you decide to do an exchange semester, you should do own research on the website of Viadrina to have a general information of the partner universities and the application steps. One remark is that you should have at least 2 options of 2 different universities. The mobility I received at RUG is my second wish. If you fail to receive the first option, you are still optimistic and prepare for taking the second desire. The application for an exchange study requires many steps and you should pay attention the deadline of both Viadrina and exchange university. I recommend asking our Exchange Department and they are very welcome to answer all our questions. There are several meetings, which help you to prepare for the application and offer you all essential information. When you receive your place at RUG, you will also get the help from the Exchange department of RUG.

For the preparation of travelling, you need to finish and hand in all the required documents from both universities and Erasmus. And you should bring your personal documents: passport, health insurance, residence permit card, ... The Netherlands is an EU country; therefore, the state health insurance (TK, AOK) is legal and acceptable. If you want to have some special requirements, you need to pay for additional insurance. For more information you can contact your health insurance agency. About the Visa, EU citizen are allowed to stay and travel in the Netherlands. Non-EU citizen, who have a legal German residence permit, need to register for a Dutch residence permit, if they live in the Netherlands more than 6 months. The Exchange Department of RUG will help you with application of Dutch visa. I bought the DB ticket for my travel, which costs about 40€/1 trip. You will go with the train from FFO to Leer (border city) then bus from Leer to Groningen. The travel takes about 7-8 hours.

RUG offers a Study Start event in the first week of the semester. The events include some meetings, which are hold both online and in presence. The compulsory meeting is on the first of September for the winter semester. It is also a Mentor meeting, which is hold by the student at RUG. They will give your advice, information, and notes about a semester at RUG. You can ask them about the problems during your mobility.

- **Unterkunft**

I found my apartment through SSH, which is a student services in Groningen. My apartment is in Winschoterdiep 46 and it is available for student with exchange semester. First, you have to register for an account by SSH, then RUG will accept your registration and your account. Then, you can see the apartment offer from SSH and SSH will open the

application day later. One remark is you need to apply for your favorite room very quickly after the application opening time. For the room application, you need to pay the first and last month fee of your room. There are a huge number of exchange students coming to Groningen; therefore, you should find your accommodation early before your arrival in Groningen.

My apartment is near the city center and you can find all important stores: Jumbo, Coop (grocery stores), IKEA, DHL, Primera (book store),... And you can easily go to the university in the city center. However, it takes around 25 minutes to cycle to Zernike Campus, where the main studies take place. There are many other options to find an accommodation in Groningen. SSH offers 5 places to rent a room, in which Winschoterdiep 46 is one of the biggest positions. If you want to meet and make new friends, Winschoteridep is an appropriate accommodation. There are other accommodations, which is near to the Zernike Campus. One other option is that you can also find the room, which is from other third parties.

About the apartment price, I paid around 500€/month for a room in Winschoterdiep. And the room is 19m² and you need to share the kitchen, bathroom, WCs. I would recommend paying around 500€/month for a room in Groningen.

• Studium an der Gasthochschule

In general, the studies at RUG cost more effort than at Viadrina. One semester at RUG divide into 2 blocks same as at Viadrina. The first block begins from September to the beginning of November and the rest is the second block. My lecture time started from the first week of September and ended in the third week of January. At the end of each block, students can take the exams of the courses in the block. Due to the corona measures, the semester is hold hybrid. The lectures and tutorial depend mainly on the Dutch corona measures. In my first block, I attended more present lectures and tutorials. There is no compulsory attendance in the lectures and tutorials; and most of them are recorded and uploaded to the Student portal. You will work with the university Google account for the Student Portal (Nestor like Moodle). There are also deadlines for the course registration and exam enrollment. You need to check the requirements for the course before registration.

I attended 4 courses for the whole semester. All 4 courses include group assignments, and the assignment takes about 25-50% of your total grade. Thus, you need to be active in your group work and bring more effort. All my exams are in presence and 3 of them are digital exams.

To conclude, the studies at RUG are very good for the business students. You can develop your teamwork skills, language, and the business specialized knowledge. You will work more with Dutch students, and you can enhance your English language with them.

• Alltag und Freizeit

My average budget for 1 month is 900€. You will receive 390€/month from Erasmus grant; therefore, you should remember to hand in all required documents. There are two common ways to travel in Groningen. The first choice is to go with the Bus. You pay 57€/1 month + 10€ for card registration. One remark about the bus is that you are not flexible with your travel around the city. The second choice, which is more common, is to rent a bike. I chose the option 20€ bike with hand-brake by Swapfiets. There are also cheaper option or eBike by Swapfiets. If you want to own a bike, you can go to a bike store and buy a secondhand bike. I suggest renting the bike by Swapfiets because you can get your bike repaired or changed. I often go food shopping in Jumbo because I can pay with visa card, Giro card or also cash there. There is a grocery market in the city center every Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays. You can buy fresh foods there. About the transaction in Groningen, you can use a visa/master card in the majority of stores. Otherwise, you an also pay with the German Giro card when the visa card is not acceptable.

Dutch people speak English very fluently; therefore, you can easily talk to every people. There is a sport center at the Zernike Campus for all students. You need to register for a membership (ACLO membership), then you can choose the sport that you want to do. The membership at ACLO is available for either one semester or one year. There are many activities, which you can do with your friends: go to have a drink, or go to watch football, do sports, ... The accommodation is a suitable place for you to find friends and spend your free time.

• Fazit

In conclusion, i experienced a meaningful exchange semester in Groningen. From the beginning phase to the end journey, I receive the helps from both Exchange Departments of 2 universities. Living in a shared accommodation could be either a good or bad experience. Therefore, you need to prepare for some obstacles during the stay. Be open and sympathy. I wish you could have a nice experience in Groningen.