

## ERASMUS-EXPERIENCE REPORT

**Name:** Lili Gundacker

**Field of study:** Agricultural Science (BSc)

**Host University:** Humboldt Universität zu Berlin

**Year of study:** 2nd

**Duration of stay:** from 1/4/2023 to 31/8/2023

### Publication of the report

I consent to the publication of this experience report including the above data (field of study, host university, year of study, duration of stay) on the website of BOKU-International Relations for the purpose of sharing information related to the study visit, so that future interested outgoings can inform themselves about your experience at the host institution.

**no**

The consent is voluntary and can be withdrawn at any time without giving reasons with immediate future effect. Any withdrawal can be declared at any time by e-mail to [erasmus@boku.ac.at](mailto:erasmus@boku.ac.at).

**THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS WOULD BE INTERESTING FOR FUTURE OUTGOINGS:**

1. City, country and people + social integration
2. Accommodation
3. Costs and expenses
4. Arrival and departure (mean of transport)
5. Other (visa, insurance, etc.)
6. Description of host university
7. Application and enrollment formalities and orientation phase
8. Course offer and attended courses (short description and possibly grading)
9. "Study workload" (ECTS) per semester + grading
10. Academic counseling/support
11. Tips and summary

I had the incredible opportunity to spend my Erasmus experience at the Humboldt University of Berlin in Germany. Berlin, a vibrant and historically rich city, provided the perfect backdrop for my studies. The people in Berlin were welcoming and open, making it relatively easy to integrate socially. The city's diverse and multicultural environment made it simple to meet fellow students and locals. Language was not a barrier, as the main language in Berlin is German and the international people all spoke English.

I opted to stay in a shared apartment with a lovely local lady. The accommodation was conveniently located near the campus, making it easy to attend classes and explore the city. The room I rented was comfortable and reasonably priced. Living in a shared apartment with a Berlin native provided me with the chance to explore recommended local spots and introduced me to her friends and family. Consequently, I quickly developed a sense of belonging in the city.

Berlin is known for being a relatively affordable city for students. Living expenses, including rent, food, and transportation, were reasonable. The cost of living was manageable, and I found that my Erasmus grant covered most of my expenses. Additionally, the city offers various student discounts, which further reduced the financial burden.

I arrived in Berlin by train, and the city's efficient public transportation system, including buses, trams, and subways, made it easy to get around. Berlin's well-connected train stations also made traveling to other European cities during my Erasmus period convenient.

I had comprehensive health insurance, which was a requirement for my Erasmus program. The university provided guidance and support for these administrative tasks.

Humboldt University of Berlin is a renowned institution with a rich academic history. The campus is located in the heart of the city, and it provided a stimulating environment for learning. The university offered a wide range of courses, and the professors were knowledgeable and approachable.



The application process was relatively straightforward, and the university's Erasmus office provided clear guidance. Upon arrival, there was a thorough orientation phase that helped us understand the university's facilities, academic procedures, and available resources.

I had the opportunity to explore various subjects during my Erasmus, from economics to meteorology. The course catalog was extensive, I unfortunately only found out upon my arrival that a lot of the courses on the catalog were not available anymore. I thus had to change most of my chosen subjects, which was frustrating at the beginning. While I initially didn't intend to take most of the courses I attended, I ultimately recognized the significance of the knowledge I acquired in these subjects. The grading system was similar to my home university, and I was evaluated based on regular assignments, exams, and participation.

The workload was reasonable, and the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) made it easy to track my academic progress. I found that the courses were challenging yet manageable. The grading system was transparent and fair.

The university had a dedicated international office that provided academic support, advice on course selection, and assistance with any academic challenges I faced. Professors were also readily available during office hours to answer questions and provide guidance.

In summary, my Erasmus experience at Humboldt University of Berlin was enriching and fulfilling. Berlin's vibrant atmosphere, combined with the university's academic excellence, made it a perfect destination for my studies. My advice to future Erasmus students would be to embrace the local culture, make friends with both international and local students, and explore the city to make the most of this incredible opportunity. Overall, my Erasmus experience in Berlin was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that enriched both my personal as well as my professional life.