

ERASMUS-EXPERIENCE REPORT

Name: Anonymous

Field of study:

Weinbau, Önologie und Weinwirtschaft

Host University: Hochschule Geisenheim University

Year of study: 2021/2022

Duration of stay: from 10/2021 to 02/2022

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.

☒ yes ☐ 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The consent is voluntary and can be withdrawn at any time without giving reasons with immediate future effect.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.

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

Answers

1. I went for a semester in Geisenheim in Germany as part of my obligatory Master double-degree in Enology. Geisenheim is a quiet and hospitable place for students. German people in this region were polite and used to having foreign students. Everyone is somehow wine related, so it is easy to integrate if you have common interests. I lived in Rüdesheim am Rhein, the next village after Geisenheim and I am happy I did so. The people there welcomed me warmly, my landlord especially and I really like that we greet each other on the street even though we do not know each other. There are also many international students and since the region is small it is very easy to make new friends and grab a drink or go hiking.
2. I am very happy for the accommodation I found, it was very cheap and decent in my eyes. It was around 240€ all included, sharing my flat with 2 other people, but usually Geisenheim rent is about 300-500 to share a room with 2-3 people. Bus connections in Rüdesheim are not ideal, the bus runs every hour but even a 30-minute walk through vineyards is not that bad in my opinion, depending on the weather. I would recommend Rüdesheim since it is more beautiful and more "traditional". I wouldn't recommend living in Mainz, Wiesbaden or Bingen, as this will be tiring in the long term and you will feel under stress concerning train timetables.
3. As I said, the rent is about 300-500 €, I spent around 120-150€ a month for the supermarket expenses, as average and normal expenses. If you cook at home, spending a lot on food will not be an issue. Eating at a restaurant will cost you 15-25€ depending on your choice. Make use of the student transportation card to visit nearby cities and places, as this will save a lot of money for you. If you have your car there, fuel costs are a little bit higher in comparison to the bigger cities.
4. I went by car, so I do not really know the costs of train transportation. Frankfurt which is the biggest city with two airports has plenty of options and is of course well connected, since it is a huge airport base. Depending on where your starting point is, boarding the ferry at Bingen with your car can save you time and money, if you are coming from the southern part of Europe or Germany. Check the timetables.
5. As a European student, only my ID was sufficient. My insurance was covered by BOKU but there are other options as well for students (DAAD). You should register at the



Bürgeramt by the time you get there, although not all people do this.

But maybe it is better to follow the rules, as German controls are usual.

You must book an appointment through the phone, do not just show up there, people will not be happy about it.

6. The university was cute, small, and beautiful. The equipment used is up to date, the Mensa offers nice food, the price is not the most student-like it can be, but if you are bored to cook it is okay. Every Thursday there is the Fass, the barrel in the middle of the campus where students gather and drink and socialize. Be patient with the secretary, as all secretaries around the world, they deal with many issues every day and their mood depends on what they are dealing with at the moment.
7. The enrollment was done automatically by the two universities, so the process was quite easy. All the paperwork is sent automatically, you just have to pre-register for the courses you want to attend.
8. Every normal course is about 6 ECTS for 4-6 teaching hours per week. Sometimes only a small presentation can give you the ECTS, no exam needed. All the courses are easy to pass, except Wines of the World and Spezielle Oenologie, for which you have to try quite hard to pass. Other than that, there is a wide range of courses to choose from.
9. Do not overload your semester hours as this will tire you out and have an impact on your grades. It is better to attend the courses and keep notes every time and this will be in your favor.
10. Professors are easy to approach, sometimes they will call you by your name even. Ask previous students of the same degree for advice and consult with the secretary for questions regarding the courses. They will explain the curriculum in a better way.
11. Geisenheim is nice if you like quiet places, smaller friend circles and of course ...Riesling. There is so much of it. Sharing a house is better to get integrated. If you are southern European, bring your own olive oil, you will need it. Follow German rules and respect the law. Visit as many places as you can with your student ticket. Time flies so enjoy as much as you can.