## **STUDY ABROAD REPORT**

You should upload this report **within 2 months** after the end of your stay abroad to Mobility Online. You should also upload the confirmation of your stay abroad from your host university as well as the equivalence list signed by the dean after your mobility to Mobility Online. If you should not fulfil these requirements it is possible that your whole study grant will be revoked (see letter of acceptance). Queries: jointstudy@boku.ac.at

## **BASIC INFORMATION**

1.	Name of stud	dent:	Anonym						
	Study progra	amme:	н	066	448				
2.	Host universit	Egerton University							
	Host country:		Kenya						
3.	Your period			,					
	of stay:	from	03.	02. 201	9 to	04. 03.	2019		
	Study year:		3						

## FEEDBACK FOR FUTURE STUDENTS

# 4. Information about the host university. How helpful were the following sources of information?

(Please enter a number between 1 and 5, where 1 = not helpful and 5 = very helpful):

Homepage of the host university	2
Students / friends	5
Teachers at BOKU	3
Curricula	3
Host university	5
Centre for International Relations	5
Other:	

### 5. How would you evaluate your ability in the language of the host university?

(1 = weak to 5 = excellent)		Before your stay abroad						After your stay abroad				
	1	2	3	4	5		1	2	3	4	5	
Reading					$\boxtimes$						$\square$	
Listening				$\boxtimes$						$\boxtimes$		
Speaking				$\boxtimes$						$\boxtimes$		
Writing				$\boxtimes$						$\boxtimes$		

#### 6. Languages of care/support at the host university and their use in percentage: 🗌 Yes

0 0			
1.) English	100 %	3.)	%
2.)	%	4.)	%

What recommendations would you give to future students about the host country and university? (Questions 7 -14) Please give tips, sources of information, contacts, and links

It is recommendable to get a prepaid SIM card from Safaricom. This is the 7. Host country leading communications company in Kenya. www.safaricom.co.ke People who are not used to travel alone in Africa should stay in groups. For example during trips to towns or national parks. It is also advisable not to hestitate to ask locals for information and help. 8. Host university Egerton University, www.egerton.ac.ke LWM Programme Officer, Eddison Musikoyo, lwm@egerton.ac.ke, LWM Coordinator, Prof. Nzula Kitaka, nkitaka@Egerton.ac.ke Tel: +254727958986

### 9. To what extent did you feel socially integrated?

Language of care was German:

(1 = not at all to 5 = very well)	1	2	3	4	5
in the local culture/community in general			$\boxtimes$		
with students at the host university				$\boxtimes$	
with international students at the host university					$\boxtimes$

### 10. Which contact person (at BOKU/the host university) helped you organise your stay abroad?

BOKU: Marie Theres Pfeifer, Nina Haslinger from the Institute of Hydrobiology and Aquatic Ecosystem Management Egerton University: Eddison Musikoyo, LWM Programme Officer at Egerton University

## **11.** How would evaluate the general advice and help given in administrative matters? (Please give a number between 1 and 5, where 1 = not helpful and 5 = very helpful

at the Center for International Relations	5			
from teachers at BOKU				
from the host university				
from students at the host university				
from others:				

#### 12. Registration process, financial support, other requirements

Admission to LWM courses: application form, curriculum vitae, motivation letter, certificates.

Registration process at Egerton University is coordinated by the LWM Programme Officer. Financial support (Joint Study Free Mover): application form, transcript of records, 2 letters of recommendation from different professors, curriculum vitae, motivation letter, certificates Other requirements: visa, vaccinations

## 13. Can you give advice and suggestions regarding the social aspect of your host country/university (cultural differences, importance of language ability etc.)?

In general, it is easy to get along with average English skills in Kenya. For the courses at the university good language skills are necessary. There are cultural differences and it is important to accept and respect local habits. It is possible to get into unfamiliar situations. Then it is always wise to be friendly and polite. Stay open minded and do not judge. Misunderstandings are sometimes a good way to improve communication abilities and social intercourse.

### 14. Were there events organised especially for exchange students during your stay?

🛛 Yes	🗌 No
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### If yes, please indicate which ones:

The students spent a night out eating and dancing with the department professors in Nakuru Town. Our LWM group took part in the Mau-Egerton University cross-country. This running event was created to raise funds for rehabilitation of the Mau ecosystem and the Njoro River.

## ACCOMMODATION, SERVICES, AND COSTS

#### 15. What was your primary residence during your stay?

	Student	dormitory	,
	Sludent	uomituory	

mitory 🗌 Hot

- Room in a private apartment
- Flat share with other students
- Hotel / guest house own private apartment

#### 16. Who helped you look for accommodation?

$\boxtimes$	ł
	ł

- Host university Housing market
- Friends/family Other:

## 17. How helpful was the host university in looking for a room?

(1 = not helpful to 5 = very helpful)

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18. How	<b>18. How would you evaluate the quality of the accommodation?</b> (1 = poor to 5 = excellent)									
	] 1	2	$\boxtimes$	3		4		5		
studies (	regarding fo	or example t ellent)	he libr	rary, com		er roor	ns, lab	s, equi	sistance given during y pment etc.)?	our
	] 1	2		3		4	$\boxtimes$	5		
the host	20. How would you evaluate the accessibility and/or quality of computers and email services at the host university? (1 = poor to 5 = excellent)							s at		
	] 1	2	$\boxtimes$	3		4		5		
21. Expe	nses during	your stay a	broad	(in Euros	s):					
Trave	l costs (for a	single return	<u>i</u> journe	ey):		(	604 €			
	all expenses	per month (ir	nc. Acc	commodat	ion)	ł	850 €			
Brea	kdown:					0.40	<i></i>		]	
	Accommod	ation				240	€/Mo		-	
	Food					100	€/Mo	-	-	
		s at place of	-			10	€/Mo			
	Costs for bo	ooks, photoc	opying	, etc.		0	€/Mo			
	Study fees					0	€/Mo			
	Other:	Vaccinati	ons, ∖	/isa		500	€/Mo	nth		
<u>OVER</u>	ALL ASSE	<u>SSMENT</u>								
	would you e	-	r stay	abroad fr	om	an aca	ademic	point	of view?	
	] 1	2		3		4	$\boxtimes$	5		
	would you e				om	a pers	sonal p	oint of	view?	
	] 1	2		3		4	$\boxtimes$	5		
24. Whic	h aspects of	your stay a	broad	l did you l	ike t	the m	ost?			
	m an acader	-								
	The module Lake Ecology was very well organised and provided an interesting insight into the ecology of the lakes of the Eastern African Rift Valley								ito	
Fro	m a social/c	ultural noin								
The		-			ople	e in Ke	enya, tł	ne stre	et markets, nature and	

#### 25. Did you have any problems during your stay abroad?

	era jea nave anj	presione dam	
	l did not have a	ny problems.	
26. \	Will your academ	ic progress at B	OKU be hindered as a result of your stay abroad?
	Yes	🖂 No	I don't know
I	If yes, please exp	lain why:	
27.	How could the Jo	int Study and st	udent exchange programme be improved in your opinion?
		•	or me and I did not have any problems, I personally have no Joint Study and student exchange programme.

## **General Report**

Short feedback on your stay: attended lectures, seminars, excursions, etc. Other things you found interesting, you think future students should know, problems, general tips and recommendations... During the 4 weeks of my stay at Egerton University I attended the Module Lake Ecology which is an intensive course and compulsory for LWM students. I as a student of Applied Limnology did it as an elective course.

The main emphasis of the first 2 weeks was on lectures including basics of physical limnology, limnochemistry, phytoplankton, zooplankton, production and energy flow in lakes. Furthermore, the students were instructed to orient themselves at the university campus and supported to coordinate everyday life. Class started at 9 a.m. and ended at 5 p.m..

In the third week, we began to prepare and train for the field trip in the laboratories. Our group stayed 3 days at the Elsamere Conservation Centre at Lake Naivasha. This place has a very special and famous history. In the field, we took samples from the lakes Sonachi, Oloidien and Naivasha. We installed a field lab at the camp where we did the chemical analyses of our samples in the evening.

I stayed with some students at Elsamere over the weekend. We hiked up Mount Longonot and rode the bike through the Hell's Gate National Park. An unforgettable experience. Unfortunately, it is not recommended to swim in the lakes because of the dangerous hippos.

In the course of the last week, we calculated and evaluated the outcomes of our analyses. We then had to present our results in front of the group and several professors. In addition, every student had to write a report and do a final exam. As I was already back in Austria when the exam took place, I had the possibility to write the exam at the Institute of Hydrobiology and Aquatic Ecosystem Management (IHG).

During my whole stay in Kenya I had no problems regarding digestion or any other illness. Some of my colleagues had. In general, it is advisable to follow the common

recommendations tourists get before their trip to Africa. It is also important not to underestimate the influence of different climate zones, higher sea levels and the solar irradiation near the equator. Especially during exhausting hiking tours an unhurried speed may lead you faster to the destination. This is also something I learned in Kenya that can be useful in the fast living daily routine in Europe.

## The last two questions

## What did you gain the most out of your stay abroad?

Being intensively occupied with the topic ecology of lakes for 4 weeks including field work, taking samples and laboratory work, is definitly more effective to improve knowledge than a normal lecture with one short unit per week. I especially enjoyed university life at Egerton University and appreciate the possibility to gain a first insight into the way of living in Kenya. It always is inspiring to step out of the familiar cultural environment. Also the unique landscape, fauna and flora of the Rift Valley left a lasting impression.

## Which particular piece of advice would you give interested students?

Just do it. Every chance to study in a foreign country should be taken. It is a major benefit for your studies and you gain precious experiences for life. Don't be discouraged by bureaucratic obstacles, it is worth the effort.

## Many thanks for your support!

## Publication of this report

I agree that this report, including the above data (field of study, host university, year of study, length of stay), will be published on the website of the Center for International Relations for the purpose of exchanging information on the study visit, so that future interested outgoings can be informed about your experience at the host institution.

Yes No

The consent is voluntary and can be withdrawn at any time in the future without giving reasons. Any revocation can be declared at any time by e-mail to joinstudy@boku.ac.at.