

Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg  
ERASMUS Report 2016/17

Personal Information	
Study programme at FAU:	M.Sc. in International Information Systems
Host university:	Aalborg Universitet
Host country:	Denmark
Study programme at host university:	Creative Genius Semester
Duration in semester (WS, SS or whole year):	1 Semester, WS16/17
May the report be published?	(Delete what is <b>NOT</b> applicable) YES
If yes, may name and e-mail be published?	(Delete what is <b>NOT</b> applicable) NO to both

## 1. Preparation (organization, application at the host university)

After getting nominated by the FAU, I had to apply online at the Aalborg University and sent some documents (e.g. Bachelors certificate, TOEFL) to them. The application deadline for the winter term at Aalborg University is already in April, so I recommend applying as soon as possible after being nominated. Once I applied, I got the confirmation within a few weeks. It is only important that you already know what courses you want to take in Aalborg when you are applying.

## 2. Arrival / Visa (flight, train)

To get to Aalborg the easiest way from Nuremberg is to take a plane. There are offers from KLM via Amsterdam for reasonable prices. A Visa is not needed for Denmark; you only have to register at the municipality and apply for a residence permit and CPR when you are in Denmark. But that is no big deal and will also be explained in detail by the university during the arrival days.

## 3. Accommodation (student residence hall, private apartment)

I booked my accommodation via the International Accommodation Office of Aalborg University. It is quite easy to apply; it can be done online and you only must decide whether you want to live alone or in a shared flat. I got a one room apartment between the university and the city center. The apartment was clean and equipped with basically everything you need except a blanket and pillow. Moreover, I had really good bus connection to the city (12 minutes) as well as to the university (10 minutes).

## 4. Study at the host university (Courses / Language Courses / Timetable)

At Aalborg University, I took the Creative Genius Semester (30 ECTS). It's one whole semester about creativity where you learn how to be creative in your own profession, how to make other people creative and the theory behind creativity. The course was

in English and was split up into 3 seminar blocks which are 1-2 weeks long. In between I had to make assignments and after the last seminar I had to conduct a Creative Genius project. During all assignments and the project the teachers are always willed to help. Besides, all the literature you need for the Creative Genius Semester is accessible in the class room. Between the seminars and during the project I had a lot of spare time to travel despite the assignments.

5. Support service at the host university (International Office, Department)

I did not need much support but when I needed one I just wrote an email to the respective department or person. Usually, they replied within one day and gave me the information I needed.

6. Facilities at the host university (library, computer pool, etc.)

The university offers a lot of different libraries and work spaces. Most of them are on the main campus and in the CREATE-Building (mainly for Architect / Design students, but during the official opening hours everybody can enter and use the work spaces there). But there are many more distributed over the whole city. During the project time, it is recommended to be early in the libraries; otherwise, it is hard to find a place. I also have to say that the libraries at the Aalborg University are different to the ones of the FAU as there are no areas where have to be silent. On this account, there is always a certain noise level in the library. In my case, my class got its own room to work in which was an advantage as it was big enough that everybody got enough space to work. I didn't find any computer pools at the university but I didn't look for one neither so there might be some.

7. Spare time activities (sight seeking, bank, mobile phone, jobs)

In your spare time in Aalborg you can do a lot of things. On the one hand, there are e.g. several board game cafés where you can play games with your friends or fellow students. On the other hand, Aalborg has a lot of different sports clubs. For example, I went to Aalborg Martial Arts for Kickboxing where I had the option to participate in the training only for this one semester. Moreover, there are a lot of gyms. The most famous ones are Fitness World and FitnessDK. In general, a Danish bank account is very helpful if you want to subscribe in one of the clubs but some of them offer also to pay in cash.

Besides sports, there is also once a week an International Student Night in the Studenterhuset and from Sunday to Wednesday the Bar "Sprutten" has the offer to play pool for free. Besides that, Aalborg has a street called "Jomfru Ane Gade" where a lot of bars and clubs are where most are open every day.

Furthermore, Aalborg has a very good art museum called "Kunsten" and an interesting museum about Vikings ("Lindholm Hoje").

In addition to activities in Aalborg, you can also travel easily to Aarhus by train or take a ferry from Frederikshavn to Gothenburg or Oslo. Besides travelling with train or ferry, there are also good offers by SAS and Norwegian Airlines to go e.g. to Helsinki or Copenhagen. They have so called "Youth Tickets" where you get discounts if you are younger than 26. With those youth tickets, you can also go to Copenhagen for approximately 60-70€ (round trip) with SAS or Norwegian Airlines. This is mostly cheaper than the train.

8. Finances (cost of living, grant)

The average costs of living are higher than in Germany. Only the rents are similar or respectively only a bit higher compared to Germany, e.g. I paid for a 28qm about 3,500 DKr per month (~470€) but you can also get a room in a shared flat for about 2,500 DKr or even less. Here some other examples:

- Milk ~8.5 DKr / ~1.15€
- Cream cheese ~14 DKr / ~1.90€
- Haircut:
  - For men, cheap and the hairdresser speaks most probably no english ~140 DKr / ~19€
  - If the hairdresser should speak english, you can calculate about ~200-250 DKr / 27-35€
- Pizza (Restaurant) ~100 DKr / ~13.50€
- Beer:
  - 6-pack (6\*0.33 liters) in the Supermarket ~36 DKr / ~4.85€
  - Bars / Clubs before 24:00 ~30-55 DKr / 4-7.5€
  - Bars / Clubs after 24:00 ~55-80 DKr / 7.5-10.80€
- Bread ~25 DKr / ~3.40€

The Erasmus grant was 360€ for 4 months, so in total 1,440€. It is paid in two installments, 70% in the beginning and the rest after the semester. In addition, you can get the Danish SU paid by the Danish government if you work at least 12 hours per week. It doesn't matter what you work, it can be everything from dish washing, waitress to an office job.

## 9. Conclusion (best and worse experience)

To start with the bad experiences, I have to say there are not many. The main point, I did not like was that there were basically no events for Exchange / Erasmus students during the semester organized by the university except the welcome days. In my opinion, it would be nice when the university would organize trips around Denmark or maybe some events in Aalborg. Nevertheless, I met many new people from all over the world, went out, traveled and had a good time with them.

My best experiences were the many trips to different destinations I undertook with other international students. On the one hand, I had on this account the chance to discover Denmark and other countries (e.g. Sweden, Norway). On the other hand, I could make new friends and learned a lot about other cultures and improved my language skills.

## 10. Important contact persons and links

- a. Application: <http://www.en.aau.dk/education/apply/guest-exchange>
- b. Study programmes at AAU: <http://www.en.aau.dk/education/>
- c. International accommodation office (IAO):  
<http://www.en.aau.dk/education/international-accomodation-office/>
- d. Erasmus Coordinator at AAU: <http://personprofil.aau.dk/profil/121286>
- e. Public Transport in Aalborg:  
<https://www.nordjyllandstrafikselskab.dk/English/Bus-&-train>
- f. SAS Youth Tickets: <https://www.flysas.com/de/de/?cep=218134>