



Programm für lebenslanges Lernen



FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER  
UNIVERSITÄT  
ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG

**Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg  
ERASMUS Erfahrungsbericht 2012/13**

<b>Persönliche Angaben</b>	
Name, Vorname:	<b>Yongquan Ding</b>
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Gastuniversität:	Radboud University Nijmegen
Gastland:	Niederland
Studiengang an der Gastuniversität:	Information Science
Aufenthaltszeitraum (WS, SS oder Jahr):	WS12/13

***Vorbereitung (Planung, Organisation und Bewerbung bei der Gasthochschule)***

The reason why I chose Nederland was because I had not been there before. I wanted to have a feeling of that country and the culture in that country as well. I did not apply this exchange semester through my own department but social science department. That meant I needed to take at least one course under social science department in the guest university.

After receiving the acceptance letter from the guest university, I began to prepare all the documents that were required for the application. Since I am a non-European citizen, the amount of required documents was more than normal. The first one was an announcement from the health insurance company to show that you had a valid health insurance. Otherwise they would apply one in Nederland for you. Then, the second one was an announcement from the doctor, saying that I was healthy enough to go abroad to study. Moreover, the university asked me to show certain amount of money in my bank account, so that I would have enough money during stay there. Besides, I needed to hand in the learning agreement before I went to Nijmegen. I checked the courses on the website of that university and found several options for my courses in Nuremberg. Since I was told the information about the courses on the website were not exactly correct until the beginning of that semester, the first learning agreement was just as a reference, and I planned to do some modifications during my stay there. After submitting all the required documents, I waited for the final confirmation from the guest university.

***Anreise / Visum (Flug, Bahn)***

Since I am a non-European citizen, I need to apply for the visa. Firstly I prepared the required documents, and then I went to the embassy in Berlin to apply for the visa. Afterwards, I waited for around several weeks to get the confirmation for my visa and residence permit. On the leaving day, I took the train to Nijmegen. The train took around 7 hours to Nijmegen.

***Unterkunft (Wohnheim, privat)***

The international office of the guest university arranged the living place for me. It was a student dormitory. My room and another 14 rooms were on the same floor. We shared one big kitchen, three toilets and three bathrooms. Since not everyone used them at the same time, it was pretty enough. The size of the room is around 14 square meters with bed and other basic furniture. The rent was 330 euro per month. There are quite a lot international students there, so living together with them has a lot of fun. Moreover, in the dormitory area, there is a small supermarket, which is quite convenient.

### ***Studium an der Gastuniversität (Lehrveranstaltungen / Stundenplan)***

There is an online platform, named "blackboard" for the student to manage everything for the study. The student can use this platform to select the courses and exams he wants to take. Furthermore, the platform offers various functionalities. Most of the courses there are taught by professors. Each course normally lasts 2 hours. The course starts 15 minutes later than the scheduled time. After 45 minutes, there will be a 10-15 minutes short break. So then there is another 45 minutes for the rest of the lecture. Each term is divided into three periods. One course can be held across three periods or just one. So in the end of each period, there will be one or two weeks for exams. The exams for science department normally last 2 hours, but I have heard from other departments, the exam might be 3 hours or more. The workload is much higher compared with the workload in Nuremberg. You are required to read a lot of paper and some assignments.

### ***Betreuung an der Gastuniversität (International Office und Fachbereich)***

At the first day I arrived at Nijmegen, I received a package including most of the important information for the living and study in Nijmegen. And international office also arranged lot of activities for the international student. For the coordinator in my department, she really helped me a lot, such as the course information and the learning agreement completion. So I think with the help from the international office and the coordination, it's quite enough for the start.

### ***Sprachkurse an der Gastuniversität (kostenlos, kostenpflichtig)***

The university offers several Dutch language courses, ranging from beginning level to the higher lever. However there is no cost free language courses there. For example, I took the social Dutch 1 there. There were in all 12 lectures. Every week there were two lectures, which lasted 2 hours each course. It cost 130 euro. But it is a good way to learn some Dutch culture on the other hand. I am quite happy about that.

### ***Ausstattung der Gastuniversität (Bibliothek, Computerräume, etc.)***

Actually the facilities in the university are quite good. They have several libraries, for example the central library, and the science library. In each library, there are plenty of computers for the students to use and students can print their stuff as well. Moreover, in the library, they offer really good chairs and sofas to sit. Each library has a quite area. If you want to discuss with groups, there is also place for you. Each student has an account, so you can store your stuff in your personal folder. Then wherever you go, you can access your document by the computer in the university. Besides, there is a sports center near the university. With the student card, you only need to pay 14 euros per month or 94 euros per year. Then you can use all kinds of facilities there. That's really a good thing that I could not see here, in Germany. After the lecture, or the whole day study, lots of students choose to go there to have a break.

### ***Alltag & Freizeit (Sehenswertes, Kulinarisches, Geld-Abheben, Handy, Jobs)***

There is a city museum in the city center, but I have never been there. Also on every Saturday, there is an open market in the city center. Lots of people sell all kinds of stuff. It's a lot fun and the fish there is really good. I was really addicted to that. However there are not that many kinds of meat in Nederland than those in Germany and the living cost is relatively higher than that in Germany. For example, if you want to buy shampoo, the price is at least 1.5 times higher than that in Germany. You can buy the SIM card for your handy in the city center. There are quite many telephone service providers there, such as Vodafone, T-mobile and some Dutch providers. The other thing I must mention is that, you cannot live without bike there, since the shops and supermarkets are quite far away. If you want to go there on foot, it usually takes at least 20 minutes. So the first thing that international students there need to do is to buy a bike. However the bike there costs a lot. The normal price of a second-hand bike is at least 60 euros.

### ***Fazit (beste und schlechteste Erfahrung)***

The best things there are, first of all, I had a lot of friends. All of them are quite nice, and in the meantime, I got knowledge from different countries and cultures. The second is the sports center, since I really like doing sports. I had a lot of fun there. If I have to say one thing I am not satisfied is the weather there. It rains too often for me.

### ***Wichtige Ansprechpartner und Links***

The course offered in the university

<http://www.studiegids.science.ru.nl/2012/en/science/>

Language course

[http://www.ru.nl/radboudintolanguages/vm/nederlands\\_voor/social-dutch-for/](http://www.ru.nl/radboudintolanguages/vm/nederlands_voor/social-dutch-for/)

A guide for Nijmegen on the internet

<http://www.ammerlaan.demon.nl/foreignstudents.htm>

Datum:

Unterschrift: