



Erasmus+



FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER
UNIVERSITÄT
ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG

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

Personal Information	
Study programme at FAU:	International Information Systems
Host university:	Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz (KFU)
Host country:	Österreich
Study programme at host university:	Master Economics
Duration in semester (WS, SS or whole year):	WS16/17
May the report be published?	(Delete what is NOT applicable) YES
If yes, may name and e-mail be published?	(Delete what is NOT applicable) NO to both

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

As I am studying International Information Systems a abroad semester is compulsory to complete the degree. The ERASMUS application process is quite simple, you just have to fill out the application form and hand in all the required documents. I applied for one of the last minute places end of March 2016 and about six weeks later I received an email that I had been nominated. After that I got invited to a information event during which I received the remaining ERASMUS document like the Learning Agreement. Usually you are supposed to fill out the Learning Agreement before the mobility, in my case I submitted it in November right after I moved to Graz.

2. Arrival / Visa (flight, train)

For me the most convenient option to get to Graz was by plane, you can easily get return flights for under 100 EUR, depending how far in advance you book. Even if you book just a few days ahead of time you should always get a return ticket and put the return flight a couple weeks into the future, in most cases this is cheaper than booking one way. I also took the train twice, which was okay but took about 8hrs one way. If you are an EU citizen you don't need a Visa to study in Austria, you just have to go to citizen center in Graz and let them know you moved there. If your stay is under three months total you don't even have to do that.

3. Accommodation (student residence hall, private apartment)

I chose to stay in a private room, because I found them to be cheaper than the offered dormitories. I also heard of people who stayed in an Airbnb. I cannot say anything about the dormitories itself. You can get around by bus very easily, however most student seem to prefer biking.

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

As an international student you can basically choose whatever courses you like. Even if the online course system (online.uni-graz.at) says you need to have certain prerequisites you can usually just talk to the responsible lecturer and sort this out. Language courses fill up quite fast though, so the situation is very similar to the one at FAU. It was quite difficult to find courses that would match my syllabus, mostly because I already completed all the courses at FAU that would fit. So I would suggest to go to Graz in one of your first semesters instead. The courses and lecturers themselves were good, I would say on the same level as in Nuremberg. However the choice of English speaking courses was a bit limited for me, a lot of courses said the language would depend on the audience – and ended up to be German in many cases.

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

The support for the international students at the KFU is excellent. Whenever I had a problem or a question I would write Mrs Oštir-Schein from the international office. She was always very friendly and helpful. There is a buddy program from the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) which you can sign up for. You will be assigned to a KFU student which will pick you up on your arrival day and show you around, as well as provide support during your stay.

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

The facilities at KFU are pretty similar to the ones in Nuremberg/Erlangen. I have to say that their main cafeteria is a bit more stylish though. Some days I would just hang out there all day and get my work done. There are plenty of computers available everywhere and a nice copy/scan/print center exists as well. The library was under construction during my stay, but that wasn't an issue for me – I never used the one in Nuremberg either.

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

Graz is quite old but it also has been partially destroyed during World War II. Nevertheless you can still see quite a few history buildings especially in the "old town" with its narrow alleys. Graz also has a lot of park area and is cut in half by the Mur river which results in a quite scenic city. It has a lot of resemblance to Nuremberg. So this might not be the place to go if you want to see something entirely different. On the other hand you won't have any trouble fetching money from an ATM as your German EC cash card will work here as well. Same goes for your phone, I didn't even get an Austrian SIM card. I didn't work during my stay in Graz but a lot of my class mates did. There is a lot of jobs in hospitality for example.

8. Finances (cost of living, grant)

In my opinion the costs of living in Graz are slightly higher than in Nuremberg. While you will receive about 360 EUR per month from the ERASMUS grant you can expect your total costs to be about three times that much. Depending on your living standard of course.

9. Conclusion (best and worse experience)

Graz is definitely a student town, there is always lots of parties and you literally cannot cross a park without being asked whether you want to buy some Marijuana. This might sound funny at first, but sadly there seem to be some kind of territory fights between competing groups. On two occasions I arrived back in Graz when there was a huge amount of police around the main train station – both times because of street fights between rivaling drug dealer groups. While they don't seem to attack outsiders it was a bit unsettling for me. Other than that Graz feels perfectly safe. Stores close fairly early, usually around 7pm – this can be a little annoying from time to time.

The KFU has quite a lot of ERASMUS or exchange student, so you can definitely meet interesting people from all over the world. I had a great time during my stay and can definitely recommend going to Graz. Especially if you don't want to stay too far from Nuremberg.

10. Important contact persons and links

Contact persons at FAU:

Before departure:

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After departure:

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Contact persons at KFU:

Mag. Monika Oštir-Schein

Incoming Student Mobility

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