

Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg
ERASMUS Report 2015/16

Personal Information	
Study programme at FAU:	IIS (International Information Systems)
Host university:	University of Bern
Host country:	Switzerland
Study programme at host university:	Master of business administration
Duration in semester (WS, SS or whole year):	WS
May the report be published?	YES
If yes, may name and e-mail be published?	NO to both

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

The first step was to apply for a semester abroad at the FAU. I did it by filling and sending the needed documents and then I was invited to an interview at FAU. The interview went very well, and soon afterwards I have received a nomination from my university and afterwards confirmation from the university of Bern. The coordinator for exchange students from the university of Bern contacted me, and from that moment I was receiving information from my host university. As first steps I had to provide the needed documents to apply for scholarship and to try to arrange my accommodation as soon as possible. Afterwards I have decided which exams will pass to my master program, and formed my learning agreement.

2. Arrival / Visa (flight, train)

Traveling to Bern was quite exhausting. The most comfortable connection on a reasonable price that I found was a direct bus from Frankfurt (there were also trains with 1 transfer). According to this I had to travel to Frankfurt with something else. The whole travel was in overall approximately 10 hours, but since you make it once, it was ok, and on a reasonable price. When I arrived I had already received instructions from the host university how to get along with the public transport in Bern and how to reach the key places. Everything was well-described and I had no problems to reach my room in the students house. In the first days I was buying things that I would need for my room and I was integrating myself into the environment and collecting any type of useful information. In overall- I had no problems on arrival.

3. Accommodation (student residence hall, private apartment)

I could easily find an accommodation. We have received early instructions with the contacts of the students houses and the application procedure. The administration of the students houses was responsive and descriptive enough to support me before and during my stay. We have signed the contract only by sending e-mails, and actually when I arrived, I already had where to live, which was of a great benefit for me. Since accommodation is a main issue,

and is good to be handled as soon as possible, so that one knows that he has a place to live, I am glad that I could handle my accommodation so early, which saved me a lot of worries. I had very positive experience with the students house where I was, all the staff were very polite and responsive. It was also located near to public transport stops, which gives you the opportunity easily to reach the university and the city center with public transport. The provided conditions were good enough to support normal life standard.

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

The university met all my expectations and even surpassed them. I was really impressed from the architecture of the university buildings and the whole campus. Combined with its perfect location, it creates a perfect academical environment, which makes you feel comfortable at the same time. At the beginning of the semester there was an intensive language course offered. There were also plenty of courses offered in the university in both english and german, so that the student can combine his language skills with the information and course type that he would like to visit. Basically the system was similar to the one in our university, which made it easier for me to integrate into it. As a positive difference I can mark that there were more than 1 options available for the exam dates, which was really useful. The level of awareness of the lecturers and assistants was also very high, they leaded the courses in a way that the students can get the maximum out of it. Apart of this, they were very responsive for additional questions. Group work as well as self working were initiated, so that one can develop his communicational and organizational skills in parallel with his knowledge in the specifics of the subject. In the university there were also other international students, and the environment was in overall quite comfortable for a foreign student.

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

The support service was on a very good level. They took care especially for all international students by organizing different activities and events, where one can meet other international students and make new contacts. The international office was very responsive and supported me through the whole semester by answering any type of questions (regarding courses, accommodation, swiss law and basically everything that I have asked).

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

The library and the computer rooms were accessible, there was always place and it was comfortable and easy to be used. Also the only systems of the university (for receiving notes and downloading lectures) had functioned really well and helped me to manage my semester better.

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

The city of Bern offers a lot of activities for the leisure time. The city is not that big, but is still a pleasant place for cultural and historical enrichment. Apart of this there are lots of places with wonderful views in the city, where you can just sit and enjoy the nature. I was lucky to make new friendships with university colleagues, other exchange students and people from the students house where I lived, so I was almost never alone in my free time. I always had with who to go out or travel somewhere. Bern is on a comfortable place for traveling to other cities (like Basel and Zuerich) as well as to mountains and nature, so the weekends can very easily be organized for visiting a different interesting place. I was not interested into having a job there, so I have not informed myself over this question, and I decided that for that short period of time I do not need a bank account so this one I have not done as well. Regarding the mobile phones, as in Germany there are a lot of offers for prepaid carts which pass perfect for exchange students.

8. Finances (cost of living, grant)

The finances that I needed were the only disadvantage of going to study in Bern, but although I knew it when I had applied and I had prepared for it. It is quite more expensive

than in Germany. The grant is only 420 CHF and these are far than not enough to rely on, but still are a good support for what a student needs for a month. With approximately 1500 CHF a normal life standard can be granted.

9. Conclusion (best and worse experience)

I can define my whole staying abroad as a complete success, and very pleasant experience. I am completely satisfied with all aspects of my stay, and I have received full support regarding information and administration as well as pleasure activities from both – FAU and University of Bern. The best experience was living in another new place for me and making new contacts and getting to know new culture, and the worst experience I could define the financial costs.

10. Important contact persons and links

International office:

http://www.unibe.ch/university/organization/executive_board_and_central_administration/vice_rectorate_teaching/international_office/index_eng.html

All information for incoming students (grants, accomodation, health insurance, financial matters) :

http://www.unibe.ch/studies/mobilitaet/students/incoming/index_eng.html

About the city (all kind of information):