

Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg Erfahrungsbericht Auslandsstudium

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Gastland: Slovakia
Studiengang an der Gastuniversität: Management
Aufenthaltszeitraum (*Semester und Jahr*): Winter und Sommer semester 2010/2011

Bewerbung und Auswahlverfahren an der FAU

Our university has many partner universities spread in the whole globe. I chose Comenius University in Bratislava, because it offers closer program to the one I have here in Nuremberg. There were also some existing LAs. So I submitted my documents in the right office and after a week or two I got an email that I was accepted.

Bewerbung / Anmeldung an der Gastuniversität

There is an online application form you have to fill and also to send some documents per post. It wasn't complicated and everything went well.

Vorbereitung auf das Auslandsstudium

I tried to make some learning agreements (LAs), but due to the lack of information about the subjects offered and what they will consist of, I didn't manage to do much. Also before I went there I thought about health insurance and accommodation. You will receive some information emails from your coordinator (Viera Bennarova). Apply for an ISIC card! You will use it for many things and it is a good idea to have it when you arrive!

Anreise / Visum

There are some Slovak students, who will contact you if you have joined the Erasmus page in Facebook(<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100001040049550>) and they will help you find your accommodation. Also you can ask them for all the information you may need after your arrival. They will organize some tours around the city and they will show you most of the important things you should now!

Unterkunftsmöglichkeiten (Wohnheim, privat)

After I saw my accommodation I was a bit shocked. It was pretty small 2-bedded room with 2 desks and a big wardrobe. It was on ground level and with bars on the windows. There was almost no sunshine during the whole day. Moreover, we had like 1 bathroom, 2 sinks and 1 WC for 10 people. The hygiene wasn't good. However the first few days you will need to get use to it and after some time it won't be that bad.

You should organize with your neighbours and do some cleaning and afterwards it will get comfortable. Personally, I thought about moving out, but I am happy that I didn't. It is much better to be with the other Erasmus students together than to be alone on a private accommodation somewhere in the centre.

Einschreibung an der Gastuniversität

As I have said earlier, there are some Slovak students from ESN who will show you around and help you with your tasks the first few days. They will arrange a meeting with all the other Erasmus students and all of you will go together to the university to get your documents. There is also a ceremony for all the arriving Erasmus students, which was really great. There you can meet most of your colleagues.

Fachliche und administrative Betreuung an der Gastuniversität (Fachstudienberater, Buddy-Programme, studentische Initiativen, etc.)

The Erasmus coordinator (Viera Bennarova) is not very friendly but she will help you with most of the things you may need. Be patient and nice to her even though she may not be.

The Buddy-Program as you may have understood already is an important thing so try to find your buddy before you arrive in Bratislava. If you don't manage it, don't worry you will get one as long as you want. You just have to contact one of them and to tell him/her that you don't have one. They will also give you some tips about the subjects and who are the best teachers, etc. There are also many trips organized by ESN and also a lot of different initiatives so I can assure you, that you won't be bored there!

Lehrveranstaltungen / Stundenplan an der Gastuniversität

The semester program was well made. Most likely you won't have lectures on Fridays and depending on the subjects you want to visit you may have one more day free. However this may mean that you will stay in the university most of the time during the rest of the week (except Sundays/Saturdays). Pick your subjects carefully because there are plenty of interesting subjects with excellent teachers but you may also get some boring subjects. You have two weeks to visit the subjects and to select which you want study.

Sprachkurse an der Gastuniversität (kostenlos, kostenpflichtig)

There are Slovak lessons offered before the beginning of the semester. They are free, but you have to buy the study materials. The lessons will be useful because they will teach you the basic things about the language. Have in mind that most of older people there don't speak English!

Ausstattung der Gastuniversität (Bibliothek, Computerräume, etc.)

There are 5 computer rooms. Four of them are used for lessons and one is free for use. The computers there are the slowest. I haven't used the library because the books there are mostly in Slovak and it was noisy because they were building the Orange Arena right next to the university.

Freizeitangebote

ESN organizes a lot of trips to nearby towns. Also you can gather your friends and organize a trip yourself. You have plenty of interesting towns nearby. Sports are usually in Slovak language and I haven't visited any.

Stadt (Sehenswürdigkeiten, Feste, Museen, etc.)

There is not plenty to see in Bratislava. You can visit most of the famous things in one or two days without being in a hurry. Most likely there will be a tour organized by ESN.

Geld-Abheben, Handy, Jobben

There are ATMs around the dormitory and one in it.

The ESN gave us free orange SIM cards with 5-15 euro in them. So you don't need to worry about it. Also everybody is in the dormitory and you can go visit him or write in facebook/skype.

I don't think you will be able to find a job in Bratislava due to the fact that most likely you will have to speak Slovak to be hired.

Sonstiges

It was a great experience for me. I met a lot of new people from different cultures and made a lot of friends. The conditions may not be great but all together it was fun. I have also learned a lot of new things and met a lot of good professors with experience in their field. They were really friendly and helpful. Sometimes you may get annoyed by some of them but it is normal. Just try to be patient and nice. I will recommend going there for 2 semesters, if the living conditions won't be a problem for you. You won't regret it!