

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

| Personal Information | |
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| Surname, First name: | Carvalho, Melvin Cyril |
| Study programme at FAU: | Masters at International Information Systems |
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| Host university: | Budapesti Corvinus Egyetem |
| Host country: | Hungary |
| Study programme at host university: | Erasmus – Faculty of Economics |
| Duration in semester (WS, SS or whole year): | SS2017 |
| May the report be published? | YES |
| If yes, may name and e-mail be published? | YES to both |

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

The semester abroad program is part of my curriculum and I was in search of a suitable university to match certain courses from FAU. It was a tedious process as the number of universities and courses were restricted. After a certain amount of research, I found the most suitable location known for a good student life in Europe, Budapest. I found Corvinus University of Budapest a suitable university offering a variety of courses in different departments in summer. Therefore, I chose this university and applied for it in the W1 chair of FAU. After a successful interview about why I chose Budapest and the university with the W1 chair, not long after that I was selected. After 1-2 months, my nomination was sent from FAU to Corvinus and it was accepted. Then the nomination was approved and I was guaranteed of studying my Summer Semester 2017 in Corvinus University of Budapest.

2. Arrival / Visa (flight, train)

The structure of the course in Corvinus was given to every student right from the beginning. This enabled us to plan me trip in advance to Budapest. There were reasonable flights from Nuremberg to Budapest for 10Euros which took 1,5 hours from airport to airport. This was the most convenient and fastest way to travel to Budapest and would recommend anyone to do so.

I am a NON EU citizen and had Residence permit of Germany. This entitled me to travel to Budapest without any additional visa. However being a NON EU citizen it was required that I apply for Residence permit in Hungary as my stay was exceeding 90 days. There were 2 ways of doing this process: 1. Applying for visa from Germany

in the Hungarian Embassy in Germany so that on arrival in Budapest I will be handed over the Hungarian residence permit or 2. Applying for the residence permit in Hungary after arrival. I chose to do the second option and it was a smooth process. All the necessary documents were already listed and given to me by the university. Every Wednesday at the Immigration Office of Hungary, Budapest was specifically dedicated to address all needs and concerns of students and therefore was a smooth process in application. 1 month after application I received an email to collect my Hungarian Residence Permit.

3. Accommodation (student residence hall, private apartment)

Finding an accommodation was a hard task and required pre-planning to avoid any chaos. The university did not provide university accommodation to any Erasmus student and gave contacts of only private apartments. Therefore, I decided to search on my own. I started looking for accommodation 2 months before I planned to leave for Budapest. I joined several Facebook groups and came across many posts for apartments, flats for Erasmus students. I had a Hungarian friend who was also looking out accommodation for me. Finally, after many discussions with several apartment landlords I found a room with a shared apartment with a Hungarian local. I spoke to her and she wanted to know me as a person before finalizing the deal. I was happy that I was staying with a local who turned to be my close friend.

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

Since the W1 chair of FAU was tied up with the Faculty of Economics, I was forced to take courses only from this chair and one subject from any other chair. Unfortunately, this information was shared after the university had accepted my Erasmus application. I found 2 suitable and interesting subjects which matched my interests and which will be accepted in FAU. The time table was structured and prior information about the mid-term exam and final exam was shared with us. Language courses were not offered on the system and on contacting my course coordinator, I received a mail stating that there would be only paid private language course.

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

The International office was very friendly and approachable. I had initially met the coordinator to ask about the details of my residence permit and he shared everything clearly. The orientation day was organized by the International Office where they clearly explained all the steps which should be carried out during the Erasmus mobility. The department of Faculty which I was assigned to was approachable. I contacted them for several occasions and clarifications and have received appropriate answers.

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

The Corvinus University of Budapest is enormous and has varieties of facilities. The library is spread across 3 floors and contains a vast number of books. There are computer rooms in 2 buildings allowing students to access throughout the day. There were multiple cafeterias and a mensa catering to the needs of many students. The university had enough facilities for students to carry on day to day activities. For recreation, the university provided Gym and other sports activities. Students had to register to use these facilities. Cloak rooms, souvenir shop, photocopying and printing shops were also present at the university.

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

The Corvinus University of Budapest had an active Erasmus Student Network (ESN) organization. Right from the first day during orientation the ESN group organized many events to know one and another. The first day of orientation there were some group building activities which was followed by a Hungarian program with dance. There were many more programs organized by ESN, sightseeing around Budapest, Freshcamp (2-day trip to Eger), International Dinner Night, Karaoke night, Trips to Slovenia and Croatia and so on. This was an active organization which made sure there was some activity carried out throughout the semester. The entire semester I kept meeting new people and discovered new places thanks to ESN.

I took a local sim card in Hungary for the semester and managed with it. There were jobs which I could have applied to but was keen on not spending my time away from Erasmus. I did not open any bank account as it was chargeable and managed with my German euro account.

8. Finances (cost of living, grant)

Hungary came in the third Erasmus scholarship bracket of 240 Euros per month. The cost of living is not entirely cheap as described by travelers who visit Budapest and assume it to be cheap based on the weak currency. My accommodation came up to 220 Euros which was comparatively cheaper than my friends. Including the accommodation, the overall cost of living would be 500-550 Euros for an average Erasmus student.

9. Conclusion (best and worse experience)

Coming from India and studying in Germany was initially a new and difficult experience. I met many Erasmus students when I met in Germany and some of them turned out to be my close friends till date. Before going to Budapest, I had a clear understanding of what to expect from Erasmus and was looking forward to it. From day one till the last day the beauty about Erasmus was I always kept meeting people and learning different cultures. The number of people I met are uncountable from different nationalities across the globe. This was something I truly admire about Erasmus. Students who come to Erasmus make sure they make the maximum out of it by travelling to new places and exploring new people and places. I managed to travel to 9 countries during my stay. I met travelers from around the world while travelling and had many cross-cultural experiences.

Not only I learned out about other countries and cultures but I had also learned more about Germany and my home country India as many people were curious to know where I come from and my perspective about Germany. These few months was an eye opened for me meeting so many people. We had exchanges of many things including food and travel.

Budapest is a great a city and I totally love this city. The place is well connected with transportation throughout the night and extremely safe. The city has many restaurants and recreational activities including baths, escape rooms, and so on. It is an extremely student friendly city and I never faced any hardship during the semester. I had many friends coming over Budapest and I was happy to show my friends around.

The university Corvinus is extremely good and would recommend it to anyone who wants to study there. The faculty is extremely knowledgeable and teaching was above par. The teaching and assignments, midterm and final exam make the program a little challenging but definitely teaches you more than expected. Overall a great university to study.

Thinking about all my experiences I cannot recall of any worse experiences. Obviously, there are some difficulties in getting used to a place with different language and culture but I cannot recall a single bad experience.

Erasmus was one of the best experiences of life. I have cherished every single moment and if given a chance would love to do it again. I am also advertising about Europe and Erasmus to all my friends in India who are keen to study abroad. Back when I came to Germany I was cautious and scared to venture about new places, but now things have changed. Erasmus has molded me into a better person, I learned so many things about the world and I'm sure there will be no better place in the world to learn this. I made some good friends in South America, North America and across Europe and already have travel plans to meet some of them. I am still in contact with my Erasmus friends I made in Germany and we travel together once in 2 months. Now I doubled the number of friends and I am sure that my life will not be the same.

My knowledge about Europe and European culture has increased drastically over the last few months. I love the concept that Europe has many different cultures and is working to integrate everyone. This will surely help me in future. I am very happy and proud to be part of Europe and have taken the opportunities. Erasmus is one of the turning points in my career, this is something which cannot be explained my words or writing, it is something which must be experienced. This is one of the best things I love about my studies which I had no clue in the beginning. Lastly, I would like to thank the university and Germany for giving this opportunity and encouraging students to take up Erasmus.

10. Important contact persons and links

Péter Hunya – intoffice@uni-corvinus.hu - Incoming Students Coordinator

Ms. Erika Szalontai - erika.szalontai@uni-corvinus.hu - Exchange Student Coordinator – Faculty of Economics