

Erfahrungsbericht über einen Auslandsaufenthalt im Rahmen eines Austauschprogramms (Studium)

Gastland: Griechenland
Gastinstitution: Panepistimio Ioanninon

1. Für welches Austausch- oder Förderprogramm fertigen Sie diesen

Erfahrungsbericht an?

Erasmus (Europa oder Übersee)

2. Vorbereitung (Planung, Organisation und Bewerbung bei der Gasteinrichtung)

Preparation was very easy, just follow the steps and mark deadlines in your calendar, in the very beginning they send a mail requesting stuff till a far away date and don't remember you when they approach the date.

3. An- und Einreise (Visum, Flug/Bahn/Bus)

-no visa required, just ID

-flight to thessaloniki, from there a ktel bus to ioannina (also possible from athens) and a taxi to the university (there is also the option to fly to Ioannina from Athens, usually way more expensive)

4. Unterkunft (Wohnheim/Privat)

Accommodation is great, for 120€/month you get a room in the dormitory with desk, bed and private bath, nothing special but great for the price, it vastly benefited the experience because all of the Erasmus students live in the same dorm

There are common kitchens, they are very badly equipped, it's not a big problem because you get free meals in the canteen (15mins walking from the dorms)

5. Fachlicher Aufenthalt an der Gasteinrichtung (Lehrveranstaltungen, Praktikumsinhalte und -aufgaben, Sprachkurse, Stundenplan, Prüfungen, Abschlussarbeit)

I highly recommend Ioannina in general if you want to have a great time and courses you can pass with acceptable grades, if your main motivation is to experience a different, better quality of teaching I recommend to go somewhere else. I didn't learn much new things, the professors were mostly not very good at explaining, but at least the level was not too high and the exams were easy to pass. The English of the professors was good, if you just want to improve your English it's still a good option, just don't expect to learn much (I was at the department of economics, this was slightly better, many other students from different departments told me that they just write assignments on their own and don't have any English lectures)

They offer a Greek course, you have to pay 50€ in materials, only take it if you are really interested. It is very time consuming, many people dropped out of this course because it's not worth it, but the people that stayed enjoyed the course

6. Betreuung an der Gasteinrichtung (International Office, Fachbereich, Praktikumsbetreuung)

The supervisor for department of economics was very nice, but the organisation was kind of chaotic. We didn't receive student accounts for a long time and I'm still waiting for my transcript of records, 2 weeks after they said they would send it.

7. Ausstattung der Gasteinrichtung (Bibliothek, Computerräume, Laboratorien, Unterrichts- und Arbeitsräume etc.)

The equipment was okay, they have a library and normal lecture room, nothing special, we usually studied together in the common kitchen in the dorms

8. Alltag und Freizeit (Sehenswertes, Kulinarisches, Geld abheben, Handy, Jobs)

- you can pay nearly everywhere with card
- German mobile phone contract worked for me
- sights: Ioannina is great, there are very cool sights in the area, trips were a huge and very important part of my Erasmus here. If possible I highly recommend you to make yourself able to rent cars, that opens up many opportunities (you need: drivers license, PHYSICAL, not prepaid credit card on YOUR name with a limit up to 1000€, Debitcards also work for many companies but that makes it more expensive sometimes, I highly recommend booking via check24)
- There are also ktel busses to nice cities but a rental car is not that expensive there (25-50€ per day for a 4 seater) and opens up many opportunities. Best daytrips we did by car:
 - Meteora
 - Vikos Canyon
 - Dragon lake (exhausting hike but very very beautiful)
 - Lefkada, Preveza, Arta
 - Parga
 - Holy Kipinas Monastery
 - Skiing in Metsovo (better for beginners) and Vasilitsa (better for advanced), very cheap, like 30€ per day for ski pass+equipment

Trips we did by bus/plane: Thessaloniki, Athens, Santorini, Sofia, Cyprus, Malta

Small minus: the city center is 25 minutes from the dorms by bus and the busses only go till 11pm, but the Taxis are very cheap, especially if you share them

Nice city center, clubs were okay, every Tuesday we usually went to beer brothers (Tuesday offer is 7€ for unlimited beer)

9. Finanzielles (Lebenshaltungskosten, Stipendien, finanzielle Unterstützung der Gaststeinrichtung)

Financially Ioannina is great, if you do less trips the Erasmus money is easily sufficient for living there. 120€ per month for accommodation is a steal, you get free lunch and dinner (breakfast too, but I preferred to eat cereals in my room because it wasn't that great), the canteen food is okay, for free you can't complain, it fills you up and you save a lot of money

There is also a cheap Cafeteria, they have a good Gyros pita for 3,3€ if the canteen didn't fill you up.

I don't think a cheaper semester abroad is possible somewhere else, but I highly recommend using the money you save on exploring the nature and cities there with trips!

10. Fazit (beste und schlechteste Erfahrung)

In conclusion, my semester abroad in Ioannina was a 10/10 for me. My academical focus was on improving my fluency in English, I did not expect to have a better quality of teaching there so I was not disappointed and was happy with my grades. Small minus is the stray dogs on the campus, if you are afraid of dogs you should consider that. They are friendly usually, just once we heard about someone who was bitten by a dog but the aggressive dog was taken care of the next day, so that's not common. The dorms were great, we all went to the cafeteria, lunch and dinner together everyday, that was always a nice part of the day. My main driver for recommending Ioannina that much is the beautiful landscape and nature around it. Also sitting on a beach in a tshirt while planning a ski trip for the next day is so nice, i really loved the variety. They also have a free campus gym 5minutes from the dorms, it's not the best gym but I was satisfied with the possibilities there. You can also play Tennis for free. The city itself is also very nice.

I had a really great time and highly recommend Ioannina to everyone!

11. Wichtige Ansprechpartner und Links

Links:

[ktelioannina.gr](https://www.ktelioannina.gr) (unfortunately they don't have a nice plan where you can see the connections, also if you see a connection that goes to somewhere but not back check if there is a different ktel for the target city, they are very split up)

https://www.google.com/maps/placelists/list/cEk3fxs_RWuZKR0O149_dQ?g_st=ac (maps list with nice places we visited during a 6 day roadtrip)

My erasmus google list, i dont know if it's helpful: https://maps.app.goo.gl/sembW2jzwoMPzBKV6?g_st=ac

App with the canteen menu in English: Pame Lexsi

12. Nur Erasmus-Aufenthalte: Für diejenigen Studierenden, die eine Sonderförderung erhalten haben: Bitte stellen Sie kurz dar, wie Sie Ihren Aufenthalt in dieser Hinsicht erlebt haben.

The special funding made it way more easy for me to leave my job at home for the Erasmus