



## Fachbereich Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaften Nürnberg FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg

### Erfahrungsbericht Auslandsstudium

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Aufenthaltszeitraum (Semester und Jahr):	<b>02.09.2019. – 03.01.2020.</b>
Darf der Bericht veröffentlicht werden?*	( <b><u>Nicht</u></b> zutreffendes löschen) <u>JA</u> / NEIN
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\*Veröffentlichung unter: <http://ib.wiso.fau.de/outgo/partneruniversitaeten/>

I had the great chance to do an exchange semester at HSE University in Moscow.

I started the preparation of my semester abroad right at the beginning in the first semester during my master studies. It began with the language preparation, I started to learn Russian because I wanted to gain as big vocabulary as I can in order to for example to be able to do groceries. As an already foreign student, it was really hard to learn at the beginning because my German knowledge is only around a level B1. Therefore, I decided to continue to study Russian online and I also bought a language book to learn at home, which gave me enough knowledge to start my staying in Russia.

The partner university also provided for us 3 webinars (called READY, STEADY, GO). These webinars provided for us all the important and relevant information what we need in order to start our exchange semester in a proper way. At the end of each session, there was a Q&A part where we were able to ask if we had a question or did not understand something. HSE also provided some useful material (e.g. checklists) via e-mail to help us even more before



we arrive in Russia. And of course, if we had an urgent question, we were able to ask the international office (SIMO office) any time via e-mail, most of the time they answered within 24 hours.

I applied for my visa in Germany, which – as an already foreign student – was unfortunately really complicated in my case. The application itself was not that complicated but getting the suitable health insurance was not possible to me in Germany. As a result, I needed to travel back to Hungary just to get an acceptable insurance during my whole staying, which was also quite a long time. Therefore, I spent around 2 months to get my visa application done. As a conclusion, if I could do it again, I would do it in my home country.

When I arrived in the country, my first destination was the HSE dormitory, what the university arranged to me. The room was well equipped, and I was living in a shared room with another girl. Every floor had 2 shared kitchens, several toilets, a shower room and a laundry room. The dormitory employees were really friendly and helpful even though, they are not able to speak any other languages besides Russian. Therefore, I recommend learning some basic words in order to make the whole conversation and daily life in general easier. At the beginning of the stay, we had an orientation week provided by HSE university. They told us all the important things and paperwork what we need to do at the beginning of the staying and what should we expect later on as well. Everything was so clear afterwards, so I did not have any further question to them, but I am sure if I would have any, they would be there for help as soon as possible.

During my actual studies in Moscow was the nicest experience ever. I did not have any problem with the different system and I also had the chance to work together with Russian students, which gave me a whole new mindset. They were always there to help me out if I had any question or problem related to my courses or my studies. We also spent a lot of time together outside the university: sometimes we just went for a walk after the lecture or had a coffee together. On the weekends they were showing me the city or went for a day or a weekend trip.

We also had the chance to improve our Russian knowledge at a Russian language course also provided by the university for free of charge.

The country itself is enormous but travelling is quite cheap. Beside my studies, my goal was to meet and try to speak as many local persons as I can. In my opinion, this is the best way to get to know the culture, the environment and the language too. Therefore, if I had a little time, I spent it travelling.

The country is amazing, just like its inhabitants. Even though it was really hard to talk with them in Russian, they were always helping me or sharing some extraordinary stories about how life is generally in the country. I had the chance to meet with local people on every side of the country; in Murmansk, Vladivostok, Novosibirsk, Sochi and of course Moscow too.

If I could do it again, I would do it just like this. Therefore, if I may give a bit of advice: study as much as you can at the beginning of the semester, and you will have enough time to travel in the country to get to know the people and the culture!



In conclusion, doing an exchange semester in Russia was definitely the best idea in my life. Even though I needed to prepare a lot before the arrival and I also had several problems during these procedures, I would say it was worth it. I do not have any negative experience, everything I have done – related to my studies or my leisure time – made a real value in my life. In my opinion, this is how a perfect semester abroad should look like and – as I have said before – if I could do it again, I would do everything just like I did.