

**Julius-Maximilians Universität Würzburg.
Germany.**

1. Study-programme: In Würzburg there is a reasonable amount of freedom in choice of what courses you want to follow. There are a few courses a lot of ERASMUS students follow, i.e. Rechtsvergleichung (Comparative Law), Rechtsdeutsch (Legal German). The courses I enlisted for were:

- **Deutsches und Europäisches Markenrecht (German and European Trademark law)**. This course I found pretty hard to do. Mainly because the Professor was really detailed. The course was, as the title depicts, about mainly German trademark law. The European part of this course is mainly just saying from what European laws it was derived. The exams are oral, but only for ERASMUS students or for people who do it as a 'nebenfächler' (you can compare that to the dutch AVV). Be aware that you have to contact the professor during the classes to make sure it is possible to have an oral exam.

- **Grundzüge des Handelsrechts (Introduction to German trade law)**. This course is a brief overview of the German trade law, you learn about i.e. 'kaufmann', 'prokura' and a lot more basic knowledge you need to get a view of how the German trade law system works. This course normally does not have an exam, but talking with the professor gets you a long way. In general I can say that for every course you can go up to the prof and ask him if there is a possibility to do an exam, as was the case for me in this course. Therefore this one was an oral exam as well. I found this course a great one for a Dutch student, it is taught in German, but the professor (Sosntiza) is really systematic and friendly. Also there are a lot of similarities between the Dutch and German trade law systems so it is easy to compare it with each other.

- **Rechtsvergleichung (comparative law)**. Rechtsvergleichung is a course in which they give an overview of the different legal systems in the world. This way you will learn about the differences between i.e. the common law and civil law systems. This is a course a lot of ERASMUS people do. Oral exam as well, but you shouldn't underestimate this course. The professor asks a lot about things he told in his lectures. At first glance it looks as an easy course but it is most definitely not. Either way I found this a good course for Dutch students, for you get a great overview about not only the German law system, but it is placed in an international perspective and that way you can compare it with other legal systems you might already know. Nice touch from this professor is, whenever there is a possibility he tries to invite foreign professors to tell a little bit about their laws. In my semester there was an Australian professor who gave us a little lecture about Australian Law.

- **Arbeitsrecht (Labour law)**. This is a real challenging course about the laws regarding employment of workers. It has a 3 hour lecture but it therefore gives you more credits. For me this was the most difficult course, but the professor has a lot of slides he puts on the internet which are really clear. The German labour laws are pretty difficult to understand and have a lot of exceptions. German students have to follow Konservatorien (Dutch: werkgroepen), but the ERASMUS people cannot. The professor acknowledges that gives them a bit of a disadvantage, and gives you an overview of what you have to learn for the oral exam (generally a bit less than the Germans have to learn).

2. Language/ Language course: I am not really in a position to tell anything about this part of the ERASMUS programme, since I did not follow any language courses. The language courses begin a month before the regular courses begin, this way your German will be up to speed before the main part of the lectures begin. Almost all the lectures are in German, so when your German is not good it is really advisable to do the language course. The professors speak English as well so if you're really in a pickle you can always resort to that. Another great thing about the language courses is that you meet all the other ERASMUS students, it could make it a bit easier to make a few contacts.
3. Finances: I would say I completely depends on how much money you spend, but in general the prices in Germany and in The Netherlands are approximately the same. When you arrive

you have to go to the international office and there you will get help signing up for the university. You need your international insurance card to show you are insured. But that part you get a lot of help. You have to pay something along the lines of 95 euro's to get your MUCK chip card (you need that to buy food at the mensa, to print and to wash your clothes). You need to go to the city council to register that you live in Würzburg for a while. Because it's in the European Union you won't need to get a visum of some kind. I would say with rent (210 in my case) and drinks and whatever you would spend about 400-500 euros per month.

4. Contact with own faculty / preparations: No problems here. You get a clear overview of the things you need to do before, during and after your period abroad. Whenever you need to know anything you can send e-mails, give them a phone call. The German semester I did, the sommersemester, starts a lot later then the semester in Groningen (May). In general that is not a problem, the only weird thing is you get your ERASMUS grant in January so make sure to put that on the side. Also this makes that the summer holidays in Germany starts a lot later (August). Also don't wait too long with filling in your forms for the ERASMUS grant, for the Germans really like holidays, so a lot of times they are not working while in The Netherlands they are, especially around Christmas. The contact person in Germany is really helpful, so if you need anything you can always send her an e-mail and she will react fairly quick.
5. Housing: The housing is good but sober. Studentenwerk Würzburg have a lot of buildings spread over the whole of Würzburg. It is pretty cheap (210 euro) and you have everything you need, but that sums it all up. The apartments are not really cosy, but you have all you need. There is also the option of going into a WG (sort of 'studentenhuis') but that is not managed by studentenwerk Würzburg so you'll need to apply for the WG's (hospiteren). I was in Haus Berlin, it is not the nearest to the town but it is the best one closest to town. International house in a little bit closer (200 meter) to town, but it is an old crappy building. Haus Berlin was renovated a few years ago. All the buildings near and on Hubland (i.e. Galgenberg, Leo Weißmantel) are really far away of town but near campus, so choose depending on where you have the most courses. Law has most part in the Old university in town, so no need to go live near Hubland. Also keep in mind that during the day Hubland I reached well by bus, but during the night it's a bus trip of about an hour if you're unlucky.
6. Guidance abroad: The people at the international office and ERASMUS office in Würzburg are really helpful. Every semester there is an introduction for 'Ersties'. Not a lot of ERASMUS people do that, but it's kind of funny. In the second semester there are less people coming to Würzburg so the ERASMUS office doesn't organise anything, but the first semester they do. In general the ERASMUS office knows what courses you can or can't do, but if you stick to the program they send you there will not be a problem about the courses you want to follow.
7. Contact with guest-university: As told the ERASMUS office and the international office are the 2 most important parts of your contact with the university. All your registry forms go to international office, all your grades and what not is going to ERASMUS office. There is a lot of contact between professors and students in the way that if you want to do an exam you have to ask the professor, there is no thing like progress in Groningen. The oral exams are at the Lehrstuhl of the professors. The German law students are rather boring and closed. With a few of them it's easy to get in contact, but for the most part they live in their own world. I guess it's mainly because most part is highly motivated. This is not general for all the students in Würzburg, I would say the rest is opposite to what I just described. The students and locals are really friendly, and if you tell them you're not German they usually tend to find that really interesting. The ERASMUS group I met there mainly consisted of Irish, Hungarian, Italian, Spanish and French people. Of course there were some other nationalities involved but most part I would say was from there.
8. Advice: I would say Würzburg for me was a perfect place to visit. The town is not too big,

but the good thing is you are in the middle of everywhere. You can go visit towns like Munich or Frankfurt, in smaller towns around Würzburg there are beer festivals, in Würzburg they have a lot of wine fests. The weather is good, the people are friendly, the student to inhabitants ratio is about the same as in Groningen. It is easily reachable by train (ICE) and autobahn. AK internationales tends to organise some day trips as well these are great and relatively inexpensive.