

Final Report Study Erasmus

Wintersemester 2011-2012, Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg.

- a) First of all, for me, being a master law student. The study programme was extensive. I had to choose from more than 20 modules. In the Carl von Ossietzky Universität (CvO) they don't have one particular module plan for law students. So, which modules I took was irrelevant to the CvO. I chose *Umweltrecht, Law and Economics of Institutions of EU and International Law, Wirtschafts- und Rechtsenglish, Datenschutzrecht and EU-Arbeitsrecht*. As you can see a very wide spread of different law courses.

The content was rather similar to what I was used to, the structure of law doesn't change dramatically if you cross the German border. But I can say that the courses were rather practical than theoretical, we had to do much more presentations, explaining what we did and write papers about this. I would recommend *Wirtschafts und Rechtsenglish, Law and Economics of Institutions of EU and International Law*, to other students, especially from the Netherlands. The level of English we are used to is sufficient to achieve a good grade in these classes. I wouldn't recommend *Umweltrecht, Datenschutzrecht, EU-Arbeitsrecht*. Unless you are capable of understanding legal German to a certain extent.

In all the Master-level classes the examination goes by a so called "*Referat*", by that meaning a 18 to 20 pages written essay, (sometimes you will be assigned in a group). It is similar to a bachelor thesis but most of the time the subject is given. On top of that it is required to present your paper in front of class in the form of a presentation.

- b) It is wise, if you are considering going to Germany doing a language course beforehand, at least in the area of expertise your study is in. Otherwise understanding will be too hard to achieve a good grade.
- c) It is relatively cheap compared to the Netherlands, but as in every country it is as expensive as you make it. There are a lot of low-budget supermarkets but also the more luxurious supermarkets. The costs per month are around 350 € for me, but that amount is not very representative because of course it is very personal and answers to my own specific needs. Additional costs to the host university are once every semester around 195 € for the so-called semester ticket. With this card you are able to travel with bus and train in the area around Oldenburg. Application procedure is not very clear and the tutors (students from CvO) are very well informed.
- d) When I first contacted CvO, the International Student Office welcomed me kindly and they were very helpful. I had some difficulty with my home university approving my modules and giving me the credit for it. This is due to the fact that the CvO uses "Fach-Masters" which is something we don't know in Holland. But with the help from my study advisor from my home university everything turned out ok. The contact with the lecturers is pretty formal and distant. You should remember that, German culture is all about courtesy and you should respect that, being too friendly with a teacher could easily offend them. To go to a teacher's room without having an appointment could easily be interpreted as being rude.

The contact with fellow students is good, but you have to show initiative, as I said, the German culture didn't strike me as an open one. They are very kind and friendly but you will have to do an honest effort to "fit in". I often meet with other exchange students because we have classes together so the contact is a bit more frequently with exchange students than with local students.

- e) The housing is good here is good, but keep in mind that you should explore/ask prior to moving here as you won't be able to find housing in one day. In Germany there are different kinds of housing but most common are the "Wohngemeinschaft (WG)". Usually this are old barracks or apartment buildings which are rebuilt for student housing. It means that you have your own room but you will have to share the bathroom/kitchen, the dorms are not really big, about 9 square metres. In return the dorms are fairly cheap about 200 € a month. It is fairly simple but sufficient, again this all comes down to what you are used to in your own country. I would do some research on where the location of the dorm is there are some dorms (Johann-Justus Weg for example) which are relatively far from the city, and so you will have to take the bus everytime.
- f) The introduction programme is good. It is called the O-Woche here and you will be assigned to a tutor who is very helpful in cases you get lost around Oldenburg or have any questions. They show you around campus, show you the city, have free lunches everyday and every evening there is some activity to go to if you want. I would certainly recommend going there because you will get to know a lot of people right away which is always a good start.
- g) There is not a ton of difference between the German and Dutch university yet some minor details are noticeable in being totally different. One of them is knocking on the table when a lecturer ends his lesson, by this giving a certain respect for the teacher. If you are polite and correct open and friendly you should be just fine.