

Report of my experiences

My Erasmus period was at the Carl von Ossietzky University in Oldenburg, Germany. It was a great time and I am glad I chose that university.

Experiences with the language

I went to school in Germany for a few years, so I had no difficulties with the language. There were some language courses in Groningen and also in Oldenburg, so there were enough opportunities to learn the language. So even if you don't know the language there will be no problems due to the many opportunities to learn German. There were some courses in English but the most courses that I could take were in German so you really had to know the language too.

Experiences at the university

The students who I studied were, were studying 'Hanse Law School'. They also went to Groningen for one year so it was nice to exchange experiences. They seemed to like Groningen a lot. Also the other students were really nice. There was no other Erasmus student in Oldenburg from Groningen, so it was nice that I could ask them a lot of questions concerning the city and the studies.

The courses I took were very interesting. Because I lived in Germany for a few years they were also very interesting because I already knew the culture and I got to know a lot of legal framework. They also were very helpful for writing my bachelor thesis.

Also one course I took was in Bremen. Sometimes it was annoying to travel for three hours for one and a half hours of lecture but Bremen is also a nice city, and I just needed to travel to Bremen once a week.

But because I had to choose courses that connect with commercial law they were not a lot of options. At first I had two courses that were at the same time as other courses I took, so I also had to choose two other courses. Also the courses that I took were from the fourth to sixth semester, so the knowledge from the courses before was presumed. So I think it would have been really helpful when there had been some recommended courses. I knew that there have not been a lot of Erasmus Law students, that went to Oldenburg but it would have really helped me when there were some courses that you can take without having the knowledge of other courses. Or that it would have been clear in advance that I needed that knowledge.

The quality of the courses was good. It was clear what the courses were about and the objectives of the courses. There were not really books that had to be read, but there were books that were recommended. I like it more when there is one book that is in compliance with the lectures, but I guess there are also a lot of students who think about that differently. Also It was not clear when the exams were at the beginnings of the courses.

I had three exams and I had to write two papers. One paper had to be 8 pages and the other had to be 15 pages. Because I want to start the master this September I had not really a lot of time to write the papers. Normally I could hand in the papers at the end of August and at the end of September. Now I hope that I will get the marks in the next two weeks so I can sign for the master. I'm also waiting for the marks from the exams, but I told the teachers that I needed the marks as soon as possible, so I hope I won't have to wait that long any more.

Furthermore the library was big, they had a big selection of books and there was always a place where I could study.

The cafeteria was also nice, it was nice to have the opportunity to eat there for little money and during breaks. I did not eat there every day but very often though.

Also I got a 'buddy' who was really nice, she showed me the university in the beginning of my Erasmus period and we also had lunch some times.

There were a few activities they were organized by the Erasmus programme but I have to say that I did not join these activities. Not because I did not want to but because I had no free time at the time of the activities.

Experiences with living in Oldenburg

I found the place where I stayed for the Erasmus period via the Internet. It was a nice place and I lived there with two other students. The room was furnished so I just needed to take my clothes and my bicycle to Oldenburg. Also it was not far away from the university and the city centre. In Groningen I also lived with two other roommates, so there was no big difference.

Summary

All in all I really liked it Oldenburg, the university and the city. There are some things that can be improved, but I guess there is always something that can be improved. I think if there were more Erasmus students that would go to Oldenburg, there would be more experience with Law student who want to spent their Erasmus period abroad. But it was a great time and I am very thankful for this experience. Oldenburg is beautiful city and I can really recommend studying there abroad.