

# Erasmus experience report

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I have spent an incredible semester abroad at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU), and the following are my experiences of the whole process.

## ***Before mobility***

Although the abroad semester is obligatory in my study program, the application process is needed. In my case, the application of the exchange is around eight months before the start of the semester abroad in Norway. We were required to submit a motivation letter and personal preferences of choice to the apartment due to the insufficient position in some famous university. The result is not my first choice, but it's satisfactory in general. After receiving the admission letter from the NMBU, I started to apply Erasmus fund, housing in the host university, and for the absent semester here at Leibniz University.

## ***Erasmus fund***

The website of the university has a visible process of applying the Erasmus fund, and the process was very smooth. The winter semester started very early in Norway (early August), and the application was still in operation at the time I left Hanover, but it completed well, and I've got the subsidies very quickly.

## ***Housing***

The student housing in NMBU was very well organized, and the application process was transparent and totally online. The price for a room was, however, not very friendly compared to the dormitory in Hanover. The place I got was almost 400 EUR per month (the cheapest), and I had to pay a totally six months of rent while the semester was less than five months.



Figure 1 My room



Figure 2 one of the ESN events

### *Studying*

The semester here was short and compact. I chose three courses, two of which had lectures and seminars in hours twice a week. All of them had a minimum requirement of attendance, which determined whether you were qualified for the final exam. There were also several (2-3) small assignments per course and along with a hefty reading workload.

The classes were all in English, and the lecturers were very international, from the UK to Denmark, which was capable of speaking excellent English. The study system “Canvas,” which is similar to the Stud.IP in LUH, was helpful in terms of schedules, online discussion and sharing documents. The university library, along with the Norwegian academic library, provided convenient access to multiple academic databases, which helps a lot when writing essays and researching.

The final exams were hard, some required 6,000 words essay in one week while some asked very detailed and challenging questions.



Figure 3 During the class



Figure 4 the NMBU campus

### *Leisure*

Spending winter in Norway was quite an experience. The weather was terrible and gray all the time, and the closer to December, the less sunlight you can enjoy. The university even had a food lecture for international students to prevent depression.

The gym was amazing, huge and well-equipped. With friendly price (for exchange student, 1,000 NOK for one semester) and 5-min-walk distance from the dormitory, I spent a lot of time in there.

Parties were great. The ESN arranged many events at the beginning of the semester, and I made many friends, which was critically important when you were suddenly in a foreign country and knew nobody.

### ***Summary***

The semester abroad for me was a great opportunity to learn new things, meet new friends and adapt to new cultures. Staff from both the LUH and NMBU gave me a lot of help during the process. I wish the Erasmus plan will continue, and more people can experience.