



## ERFAHRUNGSBERICHT ZUM AUSLANDSSTUDIUM

BITTE SENDEN SIE DEN AUSGEFÜLLTEN BERICHT PER E-MAIL AN

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### 1. LAND UND LANDESTYPISCHES

Beschreiben Sie bitte die Region, in der Sie ERASMUS-Studierende/r sind, welche Eigenheiten bringt das Leben in ihr mit sich und welche Informationen sollte man schon vor der Abreise sammeln?

Bergen is the second largest city in Norway. It's very clean, beautiful and full of students, because there are 5 institutions of higher education in there, so you'll meet many students from different parts of Norway. There's a direct flight from Berlin to Bergen offered by Norwegian Airlines. Although it's a low cost company, sometimes it's cheaper to fly through Oslo or Stockholm with SAS. Norway is one of the most expensive countries in Europe, so be ready to take with you lots of things which are much cheaper in Germany. You'll definitely need a waterproof jacket, trousers and shoes, because Bergen is the rainiest city in Europe. Norway is a country with fantastic landscapes, so be ready to have a big backpack for traveling, a good camera and a comfortable pair of hiking shoes. I would also recommend taking food or alcohol with you (be ready that a 300ml glass of beer in a bar costs at least 8 euro and the cheapest bread is 3 euro), a hair dryer, towels, bed linen, cutlery and basic kitchen stuff.

### 2. FACHLICHE BETREUUNG

Wie werden Sie als ERASMUS-Student an der ausländischen Hochschule integriert, gibt es Incoming-Programme? Wie gestaltet sich Ihr Learning Agreement in Bezug auf ECTS, theoretische und praktische Kursauswahl sowie Prüfungen? Wie lange waren Sie an der Gasthochschule, in welchem Studiengang/ Semester?

UiB has a very user friendly website with step-by-step guides for everything you need. I've spent my fifth semester at UiB and attended the following courses: Basic Codes, Concurrent Programming and Computer Graphics. Each of them has 10 credit points. The process of recognition is still on going, so I don't know if HU will transfer all credits. There weren't many courses I could choose from, because UiB holds most of the lectures in Norwegian. When applying for a course you don't know the schedule and the exam dates which is extremely inconvenient. I had 2 overlapping classes with the same exam dates, so I had to choose one of them. It is possible to change your learning agreement in the first couple of weeks at the beginning of the semester. I know some students who just went to the professor and asked if they can attend their class and then contacted the home university and made the needed changes. The relation between students and professors is very friendly and easy-going. The University of Bergen offers a welcome week in the middle of August (there's no welcome week in January). It's not compulsory to attend it, but I would highly recommend you to go there, because we got a lot of useful tips and it was also fun:)



### 3. SPRACHKOMPETENZ

Nutzten Sie das Angebot an (vorbereitenden) Sprachkursen? In welcher Sprache findet Ihr Auslandsstudium statt? Können Sie eine deutliche Verbesserung Ihrer Sprachkompetenz infolge des Auslandsaufenthaltes verzeichnen?

The classes and the communication out of the classes was in English. Norwegian people speak English surprisingly good. Even elder people are fluently speaking it, so there's no need to worry about studying Norwegian. I was fluent before my exchange semester, so I didn't feel a big improvement at the end of my stay in Bergen. UiB offers Norwegian courses for international students. I didn't attend it because I was there only for 5 months and I was sure I would forget everything after a short time. Norwegian has some similarities with German, so I was surprised to understand most of the names of products in the supermarket.

### 4. WEITEREMPFEHLUNG

Empfehlen Sie die von Ihnen besuchte Hochschule und spezielle Lehrveranstaltungen im Ausland weiter? Stellen Sie uns bitte Ihre Motive für oder gegen eine Weiterempfehlung dar.

As for me, studying at UiB is a bit easier than at Humboldt. We had less homework and the exams are longer (3 hours), so you are given enough time to solve the exercises. They are also more practice oriented, so be ready to start programming more than at Humboldt. In Basic Codes and Computer graphics, the homeworks and projects were included in the final grade, so there's an opportunity to have a better mark in the end.

### 5. VERPFLEGUNG AN DER HOCHSCHULE

Mit welchem finanziellen Etat sollte man kalkulieren? Nutzen Sie das Angebot der Mensa oder Cafeteria? Wie bewerten Sie dabei das Preis-Leistungsverhältnis?

A meal at the student canteen costs about 6 euro. The vegetarian options are not always good, but they always have something vegetarian to offer. Eating in the student canteens is at least 30% cheaper than eating out in a restaurant or cafe, but it's not always healthy, and the selection is very limited.

## 6. ÖFFENTLICHE VERKEHRSMITTEL

Nutzen Sie die öffentlichen Verkehrsmittel? Welche Kosten kamen auf Sie zu? Lohnt sich der Kauf bzw. die Mitnahme eines Fahrrades?

As I mentioned above, Bergen is a small city. There's only one tram line and buses offered by the Norwegian transportation company Skyss. They also have a mobile app called Skyss Billett where you can buy yourself a ticket using your credit card, or you can go to the central bus station to do that. You can only buy single tickets at the terminals at the stations or at the airport. If you're under 21, you can buy a "youth" monthly ticket (~40 euros) and travel for free by all means of transport across Hordaland. If you're older than 21, then you can buy the student monthly ticket for 50 euros, but it's for the public transportation only in Bergen. So, if you're not 21 yet, travel around as much as you can! Visit Hardangerfjord, Norheimsund, hike to Trolltunga, go skiing at Myrkdalen! You can also purchase 4 monthly student tickets and get the 5th one for free. I won't recommend taking the bike with you because it rains all the time, although I know some German students who took their bikes to Bergen and saved some money on the transportation, but they also had good, waterproof clothing.

## 7. WOHNEN

Wie haben Sie eine Wohnung/ Appartement/ Wohngemeinschaft gefunden? Wie ist das Preis-Leistungsverhältnis auf dem Wohnungsmarkt vor Ort?

There are many student accommodations in Bergen available for reasonable prices. You will be notified about the date when the portal for applying to them is opened. As an exchange student, you will be placed in the priority queue, which means that you're guaranteed to get a place to live. I lived in Fantoft student accommodation, where most of the international students are placed. I would recommend you choosing it, because it's an amazing community. When arriving there, you're most likely to have no kitchen stuff or furniture in your apartment (but a bed and a desk). The Fantoft Tentants Union organizes garage sales at the beginning of each semester, where they sell all the things left behind by the students who left for really cheap prices. I got everything I need for the kitchen for just 10 euros. They also organize hikes, quizzes, discos and breakfasts for all residents. I had my own room, but I shared the kitchen and the bathroom with one girl. It's also possible to have your own apartment, but it's a bit more expensive. I also went a couple of times to IKEA to buy some missing stuff for my room. It's located a bit out of the city, but there's a free IKEA bus going out every hour from the central bus station. I would recommend making an IKEA family card (which is free), because you get many things for a cheaper price, as well as free coffee and cheaper breakfast or lunch:)

## 8. KULTUR UND FREIZEIT

Welche kulturellen Freizeitangebote bietet die Stadt/ Region, welche nahmen Sie wahr? Wie sind die Preise für Museen, Galerien, Sportangebote, Barszene, Kulinarisches?

The city is surrounded by 7 mountains, so make sure you have a good pair of hiking shoes. We went hiking every single weekend the first 3 months. It's raining a lot in there, so whenever you see a sunny day, go out and enjoy it! Bergen has many museums and a big concert hall. I visited the Gingerbread Museums, which is the biggest in the world and I've also been to a couple of orchestra concerts (one student ticket is 10 euro). I would also recommend buying the gym card for the whole semester, which costs 110euros for students (really cheap for Norway). It's located in many parts of the city including the student center, with a big swimming pool and sauna. There's also a gym with a hiking wall at the Fantoft student accommodation. Almost all faculty buildings have canteens. The food there is relative cheaper than if you go out, and it's quite good. Norwegians have a nice tradition to eat tacos every Friday and most of the canteens offer taco all-you-can-eat on Fridays. It's really delicious and quite cheap. If you want to go out, there are a few places where you can get student discounts as Inside Floien Rock Cafe, Peppes Pizza, Hector's Hybel, or you can go to Egon, because they offer a Pizza Buffet (all you can eat) for 11 euro. Most of the time students hang out in "The Academic Quarter". It's a huge place with 2 bars, a cafe, 2 concert and disco halls. It's run by students, so the prices are quite reasonable and they have lots of interesting events for students. You can also go and study there, or drink a beer for 4 euro (which is incredibly cheap for Norway) with your friends.



## 9. AUSLANDSFINANZIERUNG

Wie hoch waren Ihre monatlichen Kosten durchschnittlich?

I was spending around 1000 euro per month including accommodation, health insurance, food and traveling.