

# **Erfahrungsbericht zum Auslandsstudium**

## **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?

The place I chose to go to was Swansea, Wales. Being a nature loving person, Wales was a country providing me with rich landscapes, cliffs and oceans. Swansea is a small city and therefore almost everything can be accessed in the walking distance. I decided to choose Swansea University.

I went to each universities' website, looked for all the optional modules that they were offering. I read the module description in detail and then came to the conclusion of choosing Swansea university as it was offering the subjects that I liked the most.

## **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 sind Sie an der Gasthochschule, in welchem Studiengang/ Semester?

Swansea University has a very active student support community. Lots of relevant emails are sent around to inform the students about different events, student mental health, and lots of different learning

opportunities. Therefore, the exchange students were informed about the ERASMUS integration program. There were two events:

1. Integration event
2. Course introduction event

Both events happened online on zoom to make sure everyone could access it.

In first zoom session, they gave us a virtual tour of the entire university and explained what our first point of contact would be to get our learning agreement signed and other official things.

The credit points offered for the modules here were 15 points each module. On researching a bit, I got to know Humboldt will transfer half of these credit points.

In the course introduction event, they told us about the faculty involved in computer science, how to select the modules, where to find the lecture content, each module means and how exams would look like. They also gave us information about changing of a certain module.

the summer semester in Swansea University starts in January and goes until the end of May. I have spent one semester in Swansea University doing optional modules in computer science.

### **3. Sprachkompetenz**

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

my course of study during my exchange program was in the English language. However, since my basic education in school was also in English, I did not find it challenging to study in the UK in terms of the language. In fact, I found it easier to grasp the concepts taught in the lectures because I am much more fluent in English than in German.

#### **4. Weiterempfehlung**

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

I would highly recommend Swansea University because of their extensive student support, their organized module teaching, and the location of the university right next to the beach (if you are taking technical modules). Moreover, the university is constantly sending out emails for career opportunities, self-improvement courses or seminars, and hosts various cultural, sporty, and fun events. If a student is stressed regarding anything whether in their personal lives or in academic, the university also keeps sending mails to offer talk-support sessions.

Swansea university is really keeping the university culture alive. One doesn't just feel like they are only in the university to study, but they feel they are there to grow, learn, and have fun all at the same time.

## **5. Verpflegung an der Hochschule**

Wie verpflegen Sie sich an der Hochschule? Nutzen Sie das Angebot der Mensa oder Cafeteria? Wie bewerten Sie dabei das Preis-Leistungsverhältnis?

There are two campuses for Swansea University: Bay campus (technical and science modules), Singleton Campus (All other modules). Bay campus, at the moment, offers really less variety of food options. There is a university run Mensa called 'Core', but it does not provide a lot of food options and it is not cheap either. There is a food store 'Tesco' in Bay Campus that students often use to buy meal deals or foods and snacks.

Singleton, on the other hand, has more options to offer as it is a bigger campus.

When it comes to university-run Mensa, nothing beats the Berlin Studierendenwerk's Mensa especially the HU's Oasis in Adlershof. It is cheaper, tastier, always has a variety of options to choose from for all kinds of people. Although it is incomparable to Swansea University, but one remarkable thing of Swansea University is that they offer microwaves for students on campuses. You will find microwaves in different places, buildings, libraries in the university to allow students to warm up the food that they have brought from home.

## **6. Öffentliche Verkehrsmittel**

Nutzen Sie die öffentlichen Verkehrsmittel? Welche Kosten kommen auf Sie zu?

The public transport in Swansea is not as good as in Germany. There are often bus delays and cancellation. Also the number of students willing to take the public transport exceeds the number of

buses available which often leads to a bus not letting the passengers enter the bus due to being full. One term ticket cost about 330 pounds per year or around 150pounds per term.

Most students bought bicycles to travel around the area as Swansea is a small city.

## **7. Wohnen**

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

I looked for a student apartment in the city center called 'student roost'. There are many other living places in the town for students like 'Coppergate', 'Fusion', 'Prime Student'. However, these places are a bit expensive as they offer many amenities. Student Roost offers:

A study hub, a social hub, gym, karaoke room, cinema room, and a 24/reception. However, if you are someone who loves meeting people and are a social butterfly, it can be a very good place.

A second option is to look for shared apartments which cost about 300-400 pounds per month and is like a WG. This is a really good option as well provided you find a place not so far away from the city center and the university as you save a lot of money and can also come to the student apartments if a friend lives there and use their facilities.

The third option is to live on-campus in the apartments provided by the university.

## **8. Kultur und Freizeit**

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

The food costs are similar to the ones in Berlin. If you are going out, then a full meal including a drink might cost around 13-18 pounds per head.

There are a lot of natural places to look for in Wales which are, of course, free of cost.

## **9. Auslandsfinanzierung**

Wie gestalten sich Ihre Lebenshaltungskosten, kommen Sie mit der ERASMUS-Finanzierung über die Runden?

I had applied for Bafög as well along with ERASMUS-financing. I would recommend living in a shared private apartment instead of in companies like 'student roost' or 'fusion' as they do charge a lot of money.