

Travel Report

GENERAL INFORMATION

What was your semester abroad like?

I agree to the publication of the report and attached photos (there are no third parties rights to these photos) Yes

New outgoing students sometimes ask us for a way to contact former outgoings. Are we allowed to pass on your contact details in case of inquiries? Yes

Academic year 2024/2025

Start semester Herbst/Fall 2024/25

Duration in semesters 1

Study program at EUF B.A. European Cultures and Society

Subject 1 (only applicable to teacher training students)

Subject 2 (only applicable to teacher training students)

Subject 3 (only applicable to teacher training students)

Host country France

Host university Université de Strasbourg

YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

How did you prepare for the semester abroad? What should be organized in advance?

Ich habe besonders viel Zeit in die Wohnungssuche gesteckt, da ich keinen Platz in einem Wohnheim bekommen habe und ich vor Scams in Strasbourg gewarnt wurde. Abgesehen davon, hatte ich mich mit den ganzen Kursen auseinander gesetzt (allerdings wurde diese Planung im Endeffekt völlig über den Haufen geworfen, da die finale Kursliste erst während der ersten Woche zur Verfügung gestellt wurde und vieles anders war).

Do you have any recommendations for environmentally friendly travel (if applicable)?

Natürlich dauert die Reise mit dem Zug länger als mit dem Auto, allerdings braucht man (vor allem in einem Wohnheim) nicht besonders viele Dinge und man kommt mit der Tram sehr gut von der deutschen Seite nach Strasbourg rein. Das Ticket kostet auch weniger als 2€ (für eine Fahrt).

Where did you live and how did you find your accommodation (self-organized/provided by host university, dormitory/private etc.)?

I organised my housing by myself, as the student housing program told me they could only tell me whether I received a place or not up to one week before classes started. I searched on local accommodation/housing websites and was very careful, as several people warned me about scams in Strasbourg.

Did you participate in events for exchange students? How did you establish social contacts in other ways?	I participated in the Welcome Event for internationals and actually made a really good friend at the first day, who then introduced me to several other people as well. Apart from that, we only ever joined parties that were organised for/by internationals.
How satisfied were you with the host university (facilities, staff etc.) and the course offer (workload etc.)?	The host university itself was very nice. However, I was very unhappy with the workload. That is not their fault, though, as, in spite of smaller amounts of ECTS points that are awarded per course, I still had to gain about 30 ECTS, which left me with 12 courses (instead of 6 as I would have had in Flensburg).
Did you learn the local language? How important was the language for your stay?	I'd say its very important in France to speak French, as even the responsible people for the internationals weren't all that fluent in English. I was lucky that I had already learned French in school and was able to improve my level during my stay abroad.
What intercultural experiences/skills have marked your stay?	I was very surprised by how the courses work, time-wise. They all are supposed to last 55 minutes, starting e.g., 8 am sharp, and then one has five minutes to get to the next course. This did not work out that well, as many lecturers tended to take longer than that, and I had to switch buildings between several courses. This left me late for them every time (or missing out on the last minutes of the other course). Specifically when it came to exams, this was an issue and I had to select one of the two exams to do on another day. I was lucky that the lecturer was spontaneous enough to grant that to me. Apart from that, it was once again obvious how important it is to speak French in France, in order to enable oneself to live a normal live (I don't think that's the same in all countries).
Which perspectives on your host country/home country have changed - and why?	I thought that French universities were a lot stricter, but in my opinion, they weren't. Secondly, I realised how different the writing style for different text types is in France. For one of my courses, I had to interpret a poem, and while in Germany, my teachers tended not to like me stating the obvious things and then focusing on them for too long; this was necessary in France (otherwise I would have lost many points).
How was your everyday life (leisure, shopping, transportation, inclusion etc.)?	After the first month, I pretty much spent all my time in the library studying, which was a bit sad. Nonetheless, I still enjoyed my stay and I usually had my bike with me, which enabled me to quickly go grocery shopping after university and did not take too much time. That was necessary as there was not much time left for other things. I was lucky enough to have found a good friend who would come over in the evening quite often for us to eat together and to watch a series together.
Do you have any recommendations for a sustainable stay abroad (projects, initiatives, everyday life)?	Not really, no. But again, I would take my bike with me, it's just faster than the tram.
How did you manage financially? How much did you spend on visa (if applicable), travel, accommodation (per month), living expenses, leisure activities, other expenses (books etc.)?	I spent 560€ per month on my accommodation (+500€ deposit) and about 200€ on living expenses. I was very happy that all sports offers from the university were for free, otherwise I would not have done that much.
What was your best/worst experience? Is there anything else you would like to share?	Best: All the sports offers were for free, I did climbing, dancing, workouts and went to the gym. Worst: My accommodation, but I think that's a very individual experience due to my renter.
Would you recommend a semester abroad at your host university? For what reasons?	Yes, I definitely would, if one speaks French (at least B1). The offers by the university and the willingness to help by the university staff was lovely.

PHOTOS

In this section, you may upload some photos that represent your stay abroad. When selecting the photos, please bear in mind that the pictures will be visible online if you have given us the permission to publish your report.

Photo (1)

Photo (2)

Photo (3)

Photo (4)

Photo (5)

Photo (6)

**Here you have the possibility to enter
descriptions/explanations for the photos**