

Erfahrungsbericht Auslandssemester

Bitte nennen Sie im Erfahrungsbericht keine personenbezogenen Daten (Name, E-Mail-Adresse usw.). Am Ende des Berichts können gern Fotos (mit Beschreibung) eingefügt werden.

Ich bin mit der Veröffentlichung des Berichts und der eingefügten Fotos einverstanden:

Ja Nein

Studiengang an der EUF
European Cultures and Society
Fächerkombination (falls BABW)
Gastland
Italy
Gasthochschule
Universita degli Studi Catania
Semester im Ausland (z.B. WiSe 2016/17)
2019/20
Dauer des Auslandssemesters (Vorlesungen und Prüfungen)
4 months
Vorbereitung
<p>The preparation to the semester was undoubtedly stressful, but rather smooth. I had a big A3 paper hanging above my table, on which all the documents and deadlines for them were listed. Without this I would have gotten lost instantly.</p> <p>Another part of the preparation, the course choice did not go well for me. I could not get any help from the partner university what caused tremendous inconveniences after my arrival to Italy, especially combined with the university being physically closed.</p>
Studium an der Partner-Hochschule (z.B. Vorlesungszeitraum, Unterrichtssprache, Kursangebot, Prüfungsform)
The overall course schedule was very convenient from the very beginning (mostly in the first half of the day). Two lectures a week from each subject made the learning process consistent and profound (more information on each subject, more related literature,

bigger time span, much more detailed etc), than one lecture per week. I can say that I learned a lot from the courses. All the lecturers were using the Microsoft Teams for the online lectures, and mostly used a lot of media (films, documentaries, music, books/journals excerpts) to support the topic. However, even though the process of learning was rather pleasant, the communication with some professors and the administration office caused me tremendous fear and stress. At some point I was so desperate that I was ready to quit everything and find the first possible way back home (there was none though). I had to undertake measures I would have never used in normal situation, like writing messages on personal phone number, or writing emails with a cc field.

The examination process is also quite stressful, but mostly because I am writing all the exams in English, while I took the classes in Italian. The online platform of the university is very nicely made – only necessary information, constantly updated, easy to understand. Unlike in the EUF, here there are 3 exams for each subject, and all of them are complicated and demand good preparation.

Das Leben im Gastland (z.B. Wohnen, Einkaufen, Freizeit, Kosten)

At first I moved into a dormitory, but after 2 weeks I escaped due to a lack of the Internet and kitchen. I managed to find a cheap room in a shared flat when another Erasmus student left. I was happy for the first week, until I realized what a big fraud it was. I have never seen my landlord, and I have never received my contract, no matter how often I was bringing it up.

Unfortunately, I did not manage to see much of Sicily, and even the city of Catania, since the quarantine here was very strict. Anyway, the nature here is flabbergasting! Beautiful beaches with palm trees, geckos are everywhere, blossoming orange and olive trees.

Eating outside is obviously much less expensive than in Germany. You can buy a local street food 'arancina' for 1.20, and the strongest coffee in your entire life for only 0.90.

Praktische Tipps/Fazit

Truth to be told, Catania is not the safest place on Earth. In the evening it is better to avoid small streets when alone. Dealing with catcalling can be unbearably annoying – it is everywhere. It took me quite some time to figure out how to behave every time somebody tried to start a flirting conversation. So in my opinion not letting unwanted people to talk to you is the best decision – if they don't go away after you ignored them at first, tell them straight to leave you alone. Girls here should be ready for many (I mean A LOT) of similar encounters.

Buying food is better on street markets – it is much cheaper and truly fresh. Farmers are unbelievably generous here, they can give you 2kg of local tomatoes for 1 euro. Street markets are also very picturesque, they are a heart on the local culture – colors, sounds and smells are so cinematic!

Try to explore the whole coast. You can find hidden treasures in between the volcanic rocks – tiny places to swim in crystal clear water and enjoy sun together with crabs and lizards. If you go to one of these 'rocky beaches', don't forget to take comfortable shoes and aid bands (rocks can be sharp) – just in case.

Fotos Hiermit erkläre ich, dass Rechte Dritter an dem/den unten näher bezeichneten Foto/s nicht bestehen und ich der EUF die Nutzung dieses/dieser Fotos gestatte Ja Nein



View from my room (Etna vulcano on the horizon)



The local botanical garden



The University inner yard



The University (Monastery building) main hall