

Erfahrungsbericht Auslandssemester

ALLGEMEINE DATEN ZUM AUSLANDSSEMESTER

Wie war es?

Ich bin mit der Veröffentlichung des Berichts sowie der beigefügten Fotos (es bestehen keine Rechte Dritter an den Fotos) einverstanden Ja

Neue Outgoing-Studierende fragen manchmal nach einer Kontaktmöglichkeit zu ehemaligen Outgoings. Dürfen wir Ihre Kontaktdaten bei Anfragen weitergeben? Ja

Akademisches Jahr 2024/2025

Semester Herbst/Fall 2024/25

Dauer in Semestern 1

Studiengang an der EUF M.A. European Studies

Fach 1 (nur Lehramt-Studierende)

Fach 2 (nur Lehramt-Studierende)

Fach 3 (nur Lehramt-Studierende)

Gastland Italien

Gasthochschule Università degli Studi di Catania

IHRE PERSÖNLICHEN ERFAHRUNGEN

Wie haben Sie sich auf das Auslandssemester vorbereitet? Was sollte bereits im Voraus organisiert werden?

I searched for a flat, booked my trains to Catania, registered with the ELEFAND list, decided to take out an additional international health insurance and checked whether my liability insurance is effective abroad. Additionally, I completed the required paperwork for Erasmus and for both universities. If you want and need one, you can already book an appointment for the codice fiscale or possibly already ask your government to issue it to you before leaving, but I only applied for the codice fiscale and tessera sanitaria when I arrived in Italy and it was not a problem for me.

Welche Tipps haben Sie zur umweltfreundlichen An-/Abreise (falls zutreffend)?

I travelled to Catania by train and bus and did stops in different Italian cities. The whole journey took me about a week because I treated it more like a sightseeing vacation, but it is possible in fewer days. I recommend using the app Trenitalia or general apps like Trainline and Flixbus. You can reach Catania by ferry from Napoli and southern Calabria.

Wie haben Sie gewohnt und wie sind Sie an Ihre Unterkunft gekommen (selbst gesucht/von Gasthochschule organisiert, Wohnheim/privat etc.)?

I lived in a shared apartment with two other Erasmus students. You can find the flat online, search for "Eugenio Rooms". Eugenio rents out various flats in the same building to Erasmus students. I lived in the flat "La Terraza". It is really modern and freshly renovated. I can definitely recommend it. I heard that the other flats are less modern and in one flat Eugenio has a room that he uses himself from time to time, so if you don't want to live together with the landlord, ask about that before signing the contract. The location of the flat is Via Plebiscito 246. Via Plebiscito is considered dangerous by locals, but this flat is located close to Castello Ursino, which locals consider safe and is close enough to the centre. You can check for flats on idealista and subito. Additionally, connect with AEGEE on social media and get added to their Whatsapp Group. There they regularly post available flats. The Erasmus organisation "ESN" offers a housing tour at the beginning of the semester, where you can view different flats in Catania. You can sign up for it online: <https://catania.esn.it/looking-house>. However, do not rely solely on it because they start renting out the flats before the housing tour. If you want information about available flats before the housing tour, contact ESN. I applied to the student dormitories, but I never heard back from them.

Haben Sie Angebote für Incomings genutzt? Wie haben Sie sich anderweitig sozial vernetzt?

I participated in events of AEGEE and ESN. Connect with them on social media and buy their memberships to access the events like parties, dinners and trips around Italy. I met all of my contacts during these events or at university.

Waren Sie zufrieden mit der Gastuniversität (Räumlichkeiten, Ansprechpartner*innen, etc.) und dem Kursangebot (Workload etc.)?

The host university was unorganised and replies to my emails took a long time. However, professors were very kind to Erasmus students. The offered courses were content-wise interesting, often focusing on current issues. Usually for a course, we had to give a presentation in class, write a paper and take an oral exam on that paper. Additionally, one professor expected weekly assignments. In some classes we only had to give a presentation and an oral exam on the course content. Overall, the workload was fine and it was very manageable to fulfil the professors' expectations. The department for political science was less modern.

Haben Sie die Landessprache gelernt bzw. wie wichtig war diese Ihrer Ansicht nach für Ihren Aufenthalt?

I took a short crash course in Italian offered by the Italian university and only learnt the basics. In my opinion, it is useful to learn a few phrases for buying groceries and ordering in restaurants. If I wanted to buy something or ask for something, I checked the relevant phrases using DeepL. Of course, it is easier and more engaging to speak good Italian, but you can survive without good Italian skills because at least the Italians that I talked to were very open to trying to communicate with me and slowed down their speech. Moreover, if you speak Spanish, you can understand a lot.

Welche interkulturellen Begegnungen/Kompetenzen haben Ihren Aufenthalt geprägt?

The people that I talked to in Sicily were very open to me and always tried to help even if I did not ask for help. Even though my Italian is very basic, they always tried to communicate with me. It was an interesting experience for me that sometimes, when I regularly went to the same shop, people working there remembered me and started showing interest in my life and greeted me, even when we randomly met in the streets.

Welche Perspektiven auf Ihr Gastland/Herkunftsland haben sich verändert - und warum?

My perspectives on Italy did not change much, but I now better relate to aspects I heard about the comparison of Italy and Germany from others. For instance, that in Italy, many people are more open towards others in daily life than they are in Germany and more involved in community life, with people spending more time outside together in shared spaces. Of course, my experience with Italian bureaucracy is very limited and probably differs from that of Italian nationals, but looking at my experience, I agree with the saying that German bureaucracy is complex. I found it easier to apply for a codice fiscale and a tessera sanitaria in Italy, even though my Italian is very basic, than it is to deal with German bureaucracy, even though German is my first language.

Wie sah Ihr Alltag vor Ort aus? (Freizeit, Einkaufen, Fortbewegung, Inklusion, ...)

In the GLOPEM degree, one course takes place twice per week, so my timetable on Thursdays was the exact same as on Fridays with classes from 10am to 6pm with a lunch break in which we usually went out to eat in the city together with other students. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, I also had the same classes but way fewer hours and usually on those days I bought groceries at shops close to the university. Catania has chains like Lidl and GP, but also markets and smaller shops. I had no classes on Mondays, so I could use this day for travelling or catching up on group works. Most places within Catania were within walking distance, so I never bought the ticket, but the university offers a student ticket for buses in Catania for a reduced price. This ticket needs to be ordered with the international office and 3-4 weeks after the welcome day, they send you an email and an address where you can collect the ticket.

Welche Tipps haben Sie für einen umweltfreundlichen/nachhaltigen Aufenthalt (Projekte, Initiativen, Alltagsleben)?

In Catania, they put groceries into plastic bags, often without asking first and especially smaller shops do not charge for plastic bags. Bring your own bag or reuse the plastic bags as rubbish bags.

Wie sind Sie finanziell ausgekommen? Wie hoch waren Ihre Ausgaben für Visum (falls zutreffend), Reise, Unterkunft (pro Monat), Lebenshaltung, Freizeit, weitere Kosten (z.B. Bücher)?

For living expenses, I paid a less than in Flensburg. My flat costs 295€ per month including all bills and some vegetables and fruits were generally a bit cheaper at local markets in Catania than in Germany. Only one professor asked us to buy a book for his class. I spend more money on traveling and Erasmus activities than I would in Flensburg.

Was war Ihre beste, was Ihre schlechteste Erfahrung? Gibt es sonst noch etwas, das Sie gern mitteilen möchten?

My best experience was becoming friends with people from different nationalities and visiting the volcano Etna as well as getting to know the Italian culture. My worst experience was the oral exams. We did not know the exact time of our individual exams and I had to wait many hours in the exam room until it was my turn, which made me nervous. However, that I prefer writing essays is a personal preference and the professors' grading of the oral exams was really kind.

Fazit: Würden Sie ein Auslandssemester an Ihrer Gastuniversität empfehlen? Aus welchen Gründen?

I would recommend a semester abroad at the university of Catania. The main reason is that I found the content of the classes very interesting with a focus on migration and international topics. Of course, this depends on the classes you choose and your personal interests. I disliked the structure of the oral exams, but this is only a short time at the end. Even though I enjoyed my stay, there are better organised universities than Catania and universities with more modern buildings. Moreover, some professors provided us with academic readings; others had more relaxed standards for their classes, so it also depends on the specific professors and your academic goals.

IHRE FOTOS

Abschließend können Sie an dieser Stelle Fotos hochladen, die Ihren Auslandsaufenthalt gut repräsentieren. Bitte bedenken Sie bei der Fotoauswahl, dass die Bilder im Internet einsehbar sind, wenn Sie uns die Erlaubnis zur Veröffentlichung des Erfahrungsberichts gegeben haben.

Foto (1) file_67d458d8c2a27-street_market_catania.jpeg

Foto (2) file_67d45c216d3f5-celebration_sant_agata.jpg

Foto (3)

Foto (4)

Foto (5)

Foto (6)

Hier haben Sie die Möglichkeit, Beschreibungen/Erklärungen für die Fotos einzugeben

Photo 1: My way to university Photo 2: Celebration Sant'Agata which is celebrated in Catania in February





