

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 Italy

Host university Università degli Studi di Catania

YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

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

I prepared with an Online Italian Course hosted by the University. Apart from this I did not really prepare since funnily enough the region was covered by one of my lectures in the previous semester, so I was already quite familiar

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

No.

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

I lived in a shared apartment with 2 locals. I found the flat online without any assistance.

Did you participate in events for exchange students? How
did you establish social contacts in other ways?

There are regular events for international students hosted multiple times a week. I had already made some contacts through social and media and through a previous summer school in Romania. I found the locals to be generally very approachable but the language barrier was extremely hard.

How satisfied were you with the host university (facilities, staff etc.) and the course offer (workload etc.)?	The buildings are beautiful and generally well equipped (the philosophy department being the exception, but it was still fine). The staff was very competent, friendly and the grading was fair. The lectures are well structured and interesting to follow. The course offer was a bit lacking for B.A students, but the (master level) courses I chose all worked out in the end. BUT; Organization of studies and any contact with the offices was extremely chaotic. Also lectures often changed time and location unannounced
Did you learn the local language? How important was the language for your stay?	For "university purposes" english is enough. Outside of university, or even when connecting with italian students, the italian language is basically a must.
What intercultural experiences/skills have marked your stay?	I mostly connected with international students from other countries. Exception being the italian members of the Erasmus Student Network. The italian contacts I did make were all made at different music events from concerts to Teknivals. Music was something I could bond over with quite a lot of people, especially because german artists like Klangkuenstler are seemingly pretty popular in Catania. (which took me by surprise)
Which perspectives on your host country/home country have changed - and why?	I dont believe my views on either country changed during the stay. But through this experience it became clear which parts of my behavior, values, beliefs are shaped by my upbringing in germany by contrasting these things with my experiences in sicily.
How was your everyday life (leisure, shopping, transportation, inclusion etc.)?	In Catania I went almost anywhere on foot since the city is pretty dense and easy to navigate. Outside of Catania its a completely different story. Trains are fine, maybe even better than in germany, but the bus network is unreliable and I got stranded multiple times in the middle of nowhere.
Do you have any recommendations for a sustainable stay abroad (projects, initiatives, everyday life)?	No
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.)?	Generally costs of living are comparable to Flensburg. I spent around 400 euro on rent and utilities. Everyday shopping is a little cheaper than in germany, but I vastly underestimated how much money I was going to spend on travelling and leisure. In the end I barely scraped by financially but only have myself to blame
What was your best/worst experience? Is there anything else you would like to share?	My first hike on Etna has to be one of my favorite experiences. The terrain can be challenging but the views are incredible
Would you recommend a semester abroad at your host university? For what reasons?	I would wholeheartedly recommend a stay in Catania, especially for students from (northern) germany. I would recommend it because Catania is in a lot of aspects very much the opposite of germany. It is warm, dry and sunny. The countryside is hilly, rugged and of course there is Etna in the background all the time. The historic architecture is still visible everywhere and you will see buildings hundreds of years old, created by different cultures from greeks, romans, muslims, normans, byzantines its all mixed into one place. And of course the culture is so different from the "cold and stiff" north. But after the initial novelty and culture shock wears off you will quickly realise you have more in common than not with most people and to me that was a really wonderful experience

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)	file_67bb511830f2a-whatsapp_image_2025-02-23_at_17.46.25.jpeg
Photo (2)	file_67bb511b4f6b0-whatsapp_image_2025-02-23_at_17.46.243.jpeg
Photo (3)	file_67bb511ef00ca-whatsapp_image_2025-02-23_at_17.46.242.jpeg
Photo (4)	file_67bb5122cf981-whatsapp_image_2025-02-23_at_17.46.241.jpeg
Photo (5)	file_67bb512623d17-whatsapp_image_2025-02-23_at_17.46.24.jpeg
Photo (6)	file_67bb512953acd-whatsapp_image_2025-02-23_at_17.46.23.jpeg

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

















