

Experience report study abroad semester

How was it?

You may have heard this question more often now that you are at the end of your semester abroad. The International Center would also like to know how you evaluate your semester abroad and what you need to know. The experience reports will be published and serve to help orient others going abroad. The International Office would also like to use the contents for advertising purposes if necessary. We would therefore like you to keep this in mind when filling out the report.

1. General information

Please do not mention any personal information (name, e-mail address, etc.) in the experience report.

I agree to the publication of the report and the attached photos:

Yes No

Study program at EUF

B.A. European Cultures and Society

Subject combination (if BABW)

Klicken oder tippen Sie hier, um Text einzugeben.

Host country

Norway

Host university

Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim

Semester abroad (e.g. fall semester 2020/21)

Spring semester 2020 and Spring semester 2021

2. Your Experience Abroad

At this point you can share the experience you made abroad. Sometimes it is not so easy to report on such experiences in such a compressed way. We have therefore prepared some questions to help you do this. At the end of the questionnaire, you will also find a free field for you to fill in, in which you are welcome to enter aspects that are not covered by any of these questions.

How did you prepare for the semester abroad?

I am fluent in Norwegian, so I didn't have to take a language course but I highly suggest taking one before leaving. Before leaving I found a place to live and decided on the courses I wanted to take at the host university

How did you establish social networks in your host country? Do you have any tips on how this can be achieved?

I would definitely try to participate in the events planned during the welcome week and join Facebook groups for Exchange students. The ESN group also organizes many events, so I'd follow them on social media. If you want to meet Norwegians, I recommend joining one of the many sports groups they have.

Did you learn the local language, respectively how important did you think it was for your stay?

Everyone in Norway speaks English fluently, so you'll be fine without learning the language. However, if you want to meet Norwegians I'd recommend learning the language or at least a bit, as Norwegians prefer speaking their own language and in bigger, mixed groups (Norwegians/Internationals) often switch over to Norwegian. Norwegian is also not too difficult to learn - especially if you know English and German already.

How was the study program at the partner university structured? (e.g. premises, workload, language of instruction, examination forms, accessibility)

What intercultural encounters/competencies shaped your stay?

I really liked the courses that the university offered. They have several courses that specifically target Exchange students that are taught in English and that are a great addition to the EUCS curriculum. The workload was manageable and similar to that at the EUF. Due to Covid all exams were online, but still there was a mix of one day exams and one week papers. I highly recommend downloading the app blackboard as lecturers make updates and announcements and put up their slides and course material on there. I was in Norway before and during Covid and enjoyed both teaching formats. The switch to an online teaching format was very fast and online teaching was also conducted in a good way.

What intercultural encounters/competencies shaped your stay?

EXPERIENCE REPORT ON SEMESTER ABROAD

During my first semester abroad I lived in the student village called Moholt where most international students stay, so I met students from many different countries which was very fun

Which perspectives on the host country/country of origin have changed and why?

Klicken oder tippen Sie hier, um Text einzugeben.

What was your daily life like where you were? (e.g. living, shopping, leisure, inclusion)

My daily life consisted of going to university for my classes or for studying in the library, training with one of the sports teams and otherwise spending time with my friends and roommates. Since we all lived in the same student village it was easy to meet, and the student village has both indoor and outdoor facilities to hang out, play pingpong or boardgames, or bbq outside. Both the fjord and the forests were easily accesible by bike or bus so we spend a great amount of time there, too.

What are the unique or special issues in the host country and what were the opportunities for engaging with these issues?

Trondheim is a student city and is shaped by all the volunteering work the students do. The biggest volunteering society is called 'Studentersamfundet'. It is a big, red building close to the city center. It includes a restaurant, café, bars and different clubs all run by and for students who all volunteer. They organize many fun events and concerts, and during non-covid times most of the students ended up there to party on the weekends.

Is there anything else you would like to share? (e.g. anecdotes, criticism, etc.)

If you're looking for a place to live I'd recommend to search on sit.no or hybel.no. Sit is the Norwegian version of 'studentenwerk'. They offer housing, have many cafes on the various campuses and gyms all over the city. If you like sports definetly join the sit gyms as well. The facilities are great and they offer many courses. The membership includes the fee for all the sports teams of the university, too, and I definetly recommend joining one of the teams. Some are more serious with the training than others, but there is definetly something for everyone and it is a great opportunity to meet people. Most of the teams also organize social events to get to know the other team members better. In the Moholt student village they have a store called 'Re:store' where you can get furniture, dishes, etc. basically anything you need that international students from previous semesters left behind for free at the beginning of the semester. They also sell used bikes from previous students that they fix up. You can also borrow different

EXPERIENCE REPORT ON SEMESTER ABROAD

sports equipment (skis, skates, etc.) from 'boomerang' in the Moholt student village for free. Last tip, definitely go swimming in the fjord! No matter the temperature it is fun and you won't regret it!

3. Photos

Finally, you can upload photos here, which visualize/represent your stay abroad well. If necessary, add a description. The following questions can help you choose the appropriate photos:

- Does the photo possibly reinforce prejudices or stereotypes about the country?
- Do you have the consensual consent of the persons depicted in the photos?
- "A picture is worth a thousand words!" What does your picture say about the country and your semester abroad?



Klicken oder tippen Sie hier, um Text einzugeben.



Klicken oder tippen Sie hier, um Text einzugeben.



Klicken oder tippen Sie hier, um Text einzugeben.



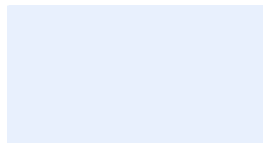
Klicken oder tippen Sie hier, um Text einzugeben.



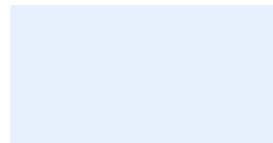
Klicken oder tippen Sie hier, um Text einzugeben.



Klicken oder tippen Sie hier, um Text einzugeben.



Klicken oder tippen Sie hier, um Text einzugeben.



Klicken oder tippen Sie hier, um Text einzugeben.

Many thanks for your support!