

## 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

*EUCS*

Subject combination (if BABW)

*Klicken oder tippen Sie hier, um Text einzugeben.*

Host country

*Norway*

Host university

*UiB*

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

*Fall 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?**

*Before departure I followed the steps for starting my erasmus, all the bureaucratic aspects were fulfilled and thought through. Then- from the more practical point of view- I had to mentally and physically prepare to be in a new very cold country ( buying proper clothing etc.)*

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

*Sammen is basically taking care of all the students' needs , from sports (gym, swimmingpool, team games, hiking events...) to social events and housing. They are definitely the go to for socializing and entertainment in Bergen (make sure to stay updated by following them on IG and FB)*

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

*I did not learn Norwegian priorly. I only learned a few words for everyday life locally. But English is very much spoken by literally everyone (and at a Good level too!)*

**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?**

*There are plenty of options for classes in English (And other languages too). The university offers a wide array of programs and as a EUCS student one is able to pick more or less freely the ones that spark the most interest. The workload is appropriate and the examinations were held in a digital form due to the pandemic. I definitely enjoyed the chosen classes and the atmosphere in general (a different one compared to small EUCS classes)...Perhaps the only downside was the system MittUiB for publishing the readings (often disorganized unfortunately)*

**What intercultural encounters/competencies shaped your stay?**

*Being it my 'second stay abroad' ( I am already abroad at my sending university), I can say that this experience was once more a confirmation of my love for travelling, nature and simply being a citizen of the world.. The fascinating way in which people from different parts of the world are brought together for short and yet very meaningful experiences...*

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

## EXPERIENCE REPORT ON SEMESTER ABROAD

*I really enjoyed the Norwegian culture and the way Norwegians socialize... In a way, I was expecting something more similar to Germany and Germans, but this was definitely not the case*

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

*I enjoyed having in-person classes again. It was wonderful getting used to the university life again (and not only sitting in front of a pc..).*

*During the free days (there were quite plenty since the classes tend to be quite high in credits and therefore more 'concentrated') look up for Sammen: they always makes sure students have many options for sports, activities, socializing, hiking etc.*

Moreover, sometimes I intentionally tried and spend a great amount of time alone in the nature. Surprisingly, this was one of the things I cherish the most from the whole experience, and something which definitely brought me closer to my own self and kept me grounded even in the darkest and coldest weeks.

Lastly, do not forget to enjoy the experience beyond the beautiful Bergen too, many small cities, islands, hikes which can be reached easily and in a (quite) cheap way.

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

*Klicken oder tippen Sie hier, um Text einzugeben.*

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

*Last tip: definitely consider spending some of your evenings at the Vågal café bar. A very nice and yet quite hidden spot, for enjoying Delicious food and beverages, but also for studying and playing board games 😊*

### 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?



*Bergen*  
key Word:  
HIKING!



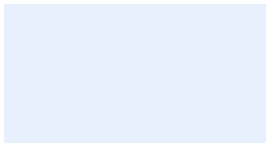
*Voss*



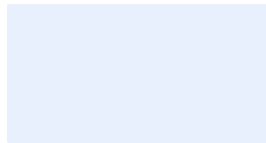
*Tromsø*



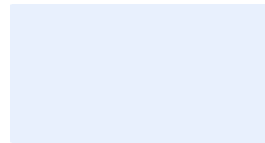
*Sunset on top  
of Floyen*



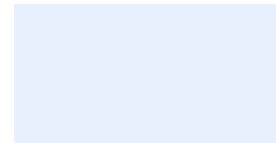
*Klicken oder tippen Sie hier,  
um Text einzugeben.*



*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!**