

## Travel Report

### GENERAL INFORMATION

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What was your semester abroad like?

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**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** 2022/2023

**Start semester** Herbst/Fall 2022/23

**Duration in semesters** 1

**Study program at EUF** BA European Cultures and Society

**Subject 1 (only applicable to teacher training students)**

**Subject 2 (only applicable to teacher training students)**

**Host country** Norway

**Host university** Universitetet i Bergen

### YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

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

I prepared in advance by already looking up the documents etc. that I need to hand in before my stay abroad and during it so I will not get overwhelmed. Next to that, I just looked up accommodation and the courses that I could take at my partner university and overall, if there were some specific requirements from the university when applying.

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

I lived in the university dormitory called Fantoft (I specifically lived in Fantoft Studentboliger). This is by far the biggest dormitory in Bergen and the University even offers a housing guarantee. I have found that basically every exchange student (1 semester) will end up at the dormitory where I lived even if your preferences are different. It was very easy to apply for the housing and I would also recommend the dormitory I lived in. However, the "apartment" is very small and you will have to share the apartment with another person and will not have your own bedroom. However, I did not mind that because I had a nice roommate and I found that Fantoft was the best place for me as an international exchange student.

<b>Did you participate in events for exchange students? How did you establish social contacts in other ways?</b>	I joined a facebook group for international students through which I established social contacts early. Also an organization called TU Fantoft offers many events for people to hang out together and also get to know people at the beginning of the semester. The university also offers an introduction week, which I however did not join. Also there is a very slim chance you'll live alone so that is also a way to find friends.
<b>How satisfied were you with the host university (facilities, staff etc.) and the course offer (workload etc.)?</b>	I was very satisfied with the University in Bergen in all accounts. The university is very organized and if I had questions regarding the application etc. I got an answer quickly. The courses I took were also not that difficult and the workload was manageable as well. The staff was also definitely friendly and helpful.
<b>Did you learn the local language? How important was the language for your stay?</b>	I started a norwegian language course in Flensburg but did unfortunately not have the time to finish it. I also did not get a place for a language course in Bergen. However, nearly everyone in Bergen speaks english very well. Additionally, norwegian is not the most difficult language so it was easy to at least know and understand the basic phrases you need when e.g. going grocery shopping.
<b>What intercultural experiences/skills have marked your stay?</b>	Norway as a whole was not that different to Germany so I did not have many intercultural experiences or skill that marked my stay. However, I did meet many people from different nations and culture.
<b>Which perspectives on your host country/home country have changed - and why?</b>	I did not have any specific thoughts about Norway to be honest. However, I had heard that Norwegians can be kind of cold and closed off when not knowing someone well. Contrary to that I found that most people in Norway were always friendly and helpful.
<b>How was your everyday life (leisure, shopping, transportation, inclusion etc.)?</b>	the Fantoft dormitory is a bit out of the city centre so everyone always takes the so-called bybanen to the city centre (you can get a ticket through the app skyss). Next to that, I did go to some very cute coffe shops, which Bergen has a lot and also went shopping once or twice. TU Fantoft is also offering a fun activity almost everyday, which I often attended with friends. I also went on a lot of beautiful walks and hikes with friends!
<b>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.)?</b>	The financial aspect is something you definitely have to be aware of when choosing to do your semester abroad in Norway. I paid around 350 euro every month for my accomodation. This was less than I expected but quite a lot when considering that I shared a small 1-room apartment with another person. I do not exactly know how much I paid for food monthly, but I would say it was about double the amount I paid in Germany before I left. One should also be careful where to shop. The supermarkets Kiwi and Rema 1000 for example are way cheaper than Meny. On top of that it is very expensive to go out to eat, which I only did about three times during my stay (a pizza Margharita for example costs 19 euro). Going to coffee shops is also very expensive. However, I noticed that things like clothes and books are roughly the same price as in Germany.
<b>What was your best/worst experience? Is there anything else you would like to share?</b>	My best experiences were definitely my trip to Tromso, where we saw the northern lights. I also went on a small roadtrip with friends, where we rented a car and spent one night in an Airbnb. I can definitely recommend to do both! Also eating cinnamon rolls at a cafe called det lille kaffekompaniet and solros were part of my best experiences! I would actually say that I did not have any particularly bad experiences, but the financial aspects was especially in the end a lot.
<b>Would you recommend a semester abroad at your host university? For what reasons?</b>	I would definitely recommend a semester abroad in Bergen. The nature and the city are just incredible and the host university is also well organized and helpful when questions arise. Contrary to what the internet told me, the weather was also great basically the whole semester except for some rainy weeks. For me Bergen as a city was also perfect because it was not too small but also not overwhelmingly big. There was always something to do but the city still felt very familiar. Except for Bergen itself, the surrounding parts like Flam are also great and the semester abroad is a chance to also visit different parts of Norway.

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\_63af1e1c0c2a5-img\_1362.jpg

**Photo (2)** file\_63af1e590dc4b-img\_2257.png

**Photo (3)**

**Photo (4)**

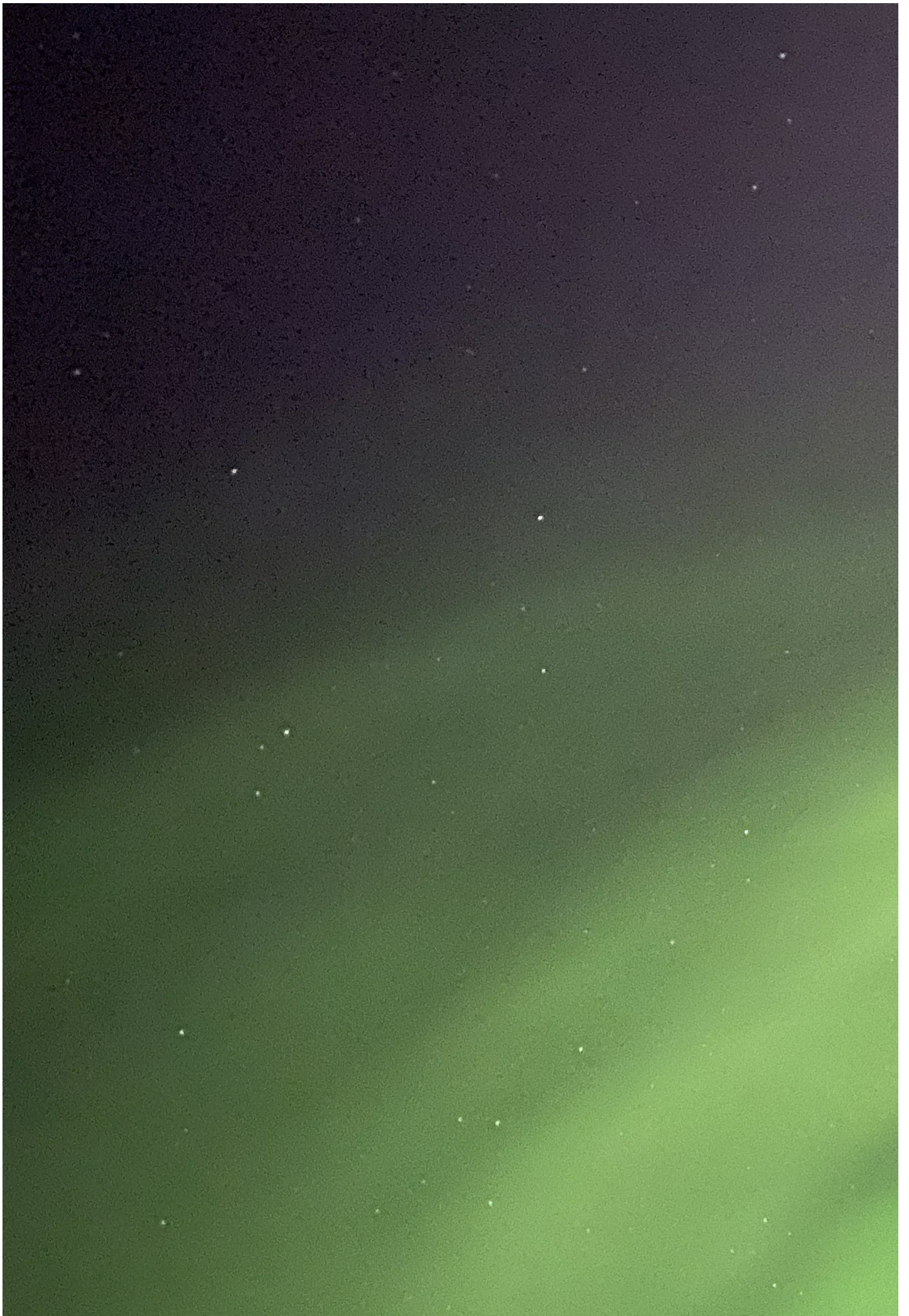
**Photo (5)**

**Photo (6)**

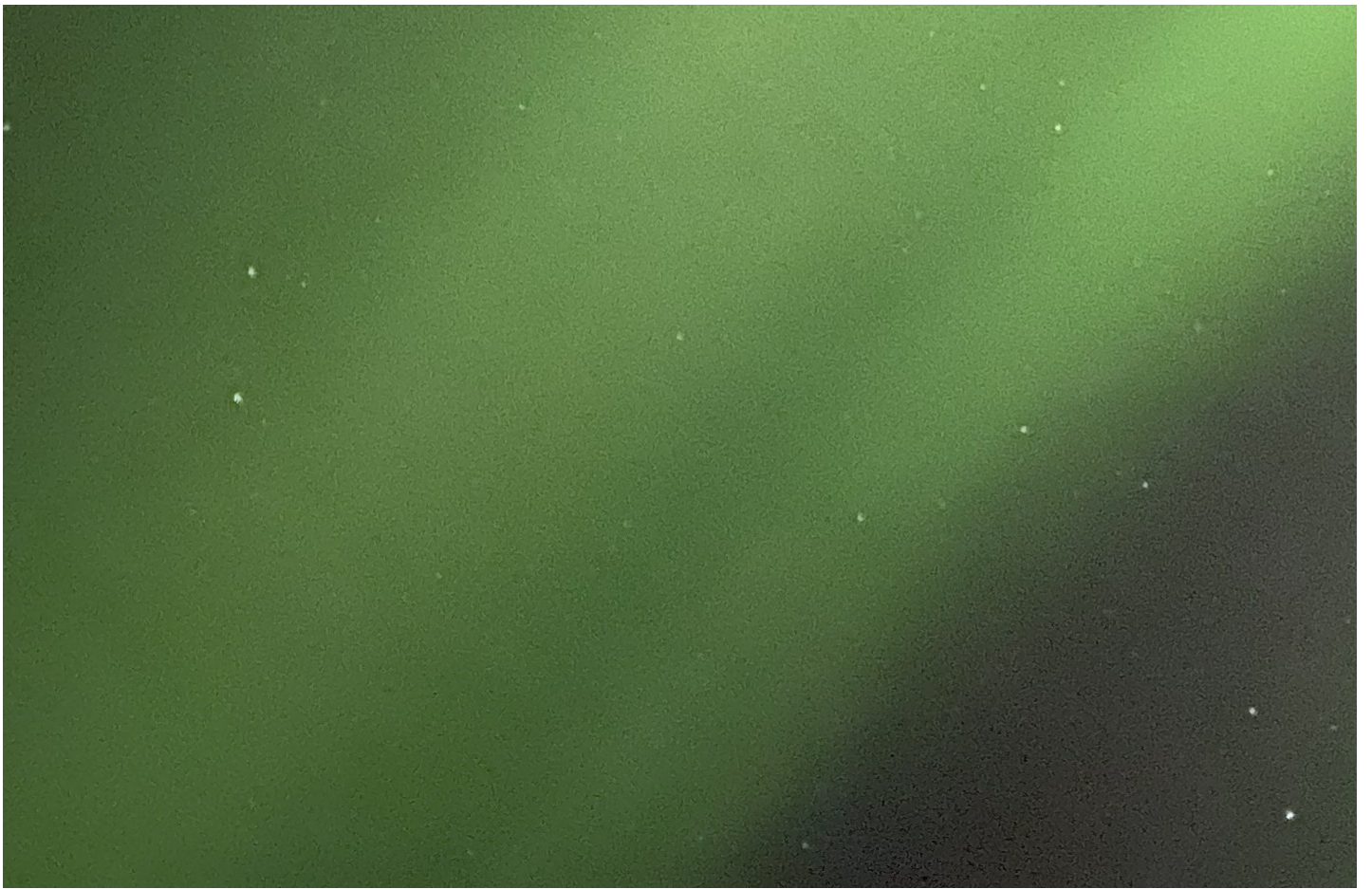
**Here you have the possibility to enter descriptions/explanations for the photos**

photo 1) Here you can see the norther lights we saw in Tromso photo 2) a cozy street in Bergen (Bryggen)











11:19



Bryggen  
15. Oktober 10:44

Bearbeiten



