

Erfahrungsbericht/Experience Report

1) Gasthochschule bzw. Praktikumsinstitution/Host university resp. internship institution

Bitte beschreiben Sie kurz Ihre Gasthochschule/Ihre Praktikumsinstitution.

Please describe briefly your host university/your internship institution.

The University of Padova is a well-known academic institution. With outstanding success in jurisprudence, science and philosophy. I experienced this high quality of studying not only during the courses but also during the everyday life of a student. There are concerts and open lectures in the ancient and the modern university buildings. The library has a great stock and the interaction between the students and the teachers is outstandingly supportive. The field of interest and field of research of this university seem unique in some areas. There are also several interesting collaborations with different national and international universities from Erasmus-exchange until double degree masters.

2) Studium bzw. Praktikum/Studies resp. internship

Bitte beschreiben Sie die während Ihres Studienaufenthalts besuchten Kurse/Tätigkeiten im Praktikum. Wie erfolgte die Betreuung? Wie waren die Studien-/Arbeitsbedingungen? Gab es besonders positive oder auch negative Erfahrungen?

Please describe the courses you attended during your study abroad/activities you carried out during your internship. How did the mentoring work? How were the study conditions? Have there been especially positive and/or negative experiences?

There were small classes and if wanted an intensive work-alliance between the teacher and the students. The courses taught in English language are also taken by several other Erasmus-students. On the one hand it can be a fruitful discussion out of different backgrounds. On the other hand, in some not quite specific courses, there might be other attending students, that have not studied the field before, whereas the discussion can go around basic knowledge of the field as well. The teachers, that I met, are highly professional and have a good standing between teaching and researching. The access to all areas of the university was supported, when asked for and via networking with other students and teachers.

3) Erworbenes Wissen/Acquired knowledge

Welches Wissen haben Sie während des Studien-/Praktikumsaufenthalts erworben bzw. erweitert? Wie hat Ihr Aufenthalt fachlich Ihr Studium an der IPU ergänzt?

Which knowledge did you acquire during your studies/internship? How has the study internship abroad contributed to your studies at IPU?

Being able to go on Erasmus during my study-plan, I had to do this during a break-semester. Therefor I focused on studying my second field intensively and combine it in housework's and papers, as well as an academic project, with Psychology, which I studied at the IPU. This was a necessary and important step in my academic life and career. For one side, because of the contents and theories, that I studied as well as the interdisciplinary researching and studying during this semester. For the other side, because I always (and this seems to be a common notion in scientific theory) understood science and therefor academic studying, which is a way to

approach science, as multi- and international. This can be seen in the exchange and discussion within journals, but also in the exchange of the everyday life of a university student or researcher.

4) Integration

Wie haben Sie sich eingelebt? Haben Sie andere Studierende der Gasthochschule/Institution kennengelernt?

How did you settle in? Did you get to know other students of the host university/institution?

There were several occasions where I got in touch with students, that are home-students of the University of Padova. This was interesting as they also had exchange experiences or were working on themes that I was until this time as well. Furthermore, I lived in an apartment with other international short-term Uni Padova students, which lead to immense fruitful discussions and mind-opening talks in the collective kitchen and, above this, special friendship.

5) Vorbereitung/Preparation

Wie haben Sie sich auf den Auslandsaufenthalt vorbereitet (sprachlich, interkulturell, fachlich, organisatorisch etc.)?

How did you prepare for your stay abroad (language, interculturally, study related, organizationally etc.)?

Plus to the usual paper work, I read "*Gebrauchsanweisung für Italien*" (Henning Klüver, 2002). I don't know, if there are translations of this book into English, which I doubt, but there might be alike books in English or another language. What I know, is, that there are *Gebrauchsanweisungen* for other countries of this author. He is a journalist and writes in a lovely way about stereotypes from both, an outside and an inside perspective. For me this way of preparing worked well, as I cognitively anticipated some typical situations, that I might be confronted with and that, under some circumstances, would irritate me, because I am not used to it. Furthermore, it gave me a cultural idea which I tied on living and studying there. And of course, I studied the language before leaving Germany, which was helpful as there are still a lot of situations and platforms, that are in the national language, at least in Italy. But the actual progress in learning and using the Italian language happened locally by reading and talking with people.

6) Unterkunft/Accommodation

Wie haben Sie Ihre Unterkunft gefunden? Welche durchschnittlichen monatlichen Kosten hatten Sie für das Leben im Gastland?

How did you find your accommodation? On average, how high were your living expenses per month in your host country?

I found my accommodation, like some other Erasmus students that I met, via AirBnB, because I did not want to make a contract with a person via Facebook. And as I couldn't arrive before the semester started to look for a room, I stuck with this decision, because I liked the apartment, the area, the people I was living with and my room. There are possibilities to get university accommodation, for which it is necessary and helpful to apply early. There are also a lot of Facebook groups, where rooms are exchanged ahead. There are

even groups that are specific for Erasmus students. By searching '(Erasmus) student + housing/room + City-name' you should find several groups, for Padova at least. It is generally helpful to look for rooms early as in every other town with famous universities.

7) Sonstige Informationen/Further information

Gibt es noch etwas, das Sie anderen Studierenden bzgl. eines Auslandsaufenthalts allgemein und in Ihrem Gastland im Speziellen mitteilen möchten? Gibt es empfehlenswerte Links oder Tipps?
Is there anything else you like to inform other students about regarding a stay abroad in general and regarding your host country in particular? Can you recommend any links or tips?

Form y language skill the web side Babbel was quite helpful. Furthermore, some north-italian universities offer intensive language courses during the lecture free time before the semester start. Unfortunately, I did not have the time to take part at such course, and still I strongly recommend such a setting. Because I think, that one needs some time to arrive and settle mind and body in the new area and at the university, taking some time before the classes start is a good idea, whereas you will then be all set to start your semester successfully.

8) Fazit/Conclusion

Was hat Ihnen der Auslandsaufenthalt persönlich gebracht? Wie lautet Ihr Fazit?
What are your personal gains from your stay abroad? What are your conclusions?

Most likely, everything important has been said until here, and to sum it up: academic chances, language skills, intellectual and personal development, professional and personal network and last but not least a specification and education of my own sense for the good and beautiful.