**Studying Abroad Experience Report**

1. **Are we allowed to publish your report anonomiously on our webpage (without your name and e-Mail)?**
	1. Yes [ ] No

1. **Are we allowed to forward your report and contact information to a Viadrina student on request?** [X] Yes [ ] No

1. **Please confirm hereby that you did not mention names of a third party (lecturer, landlord etc.)**
	1. Yes [ ] No – in this case your report won‘t be published

1. **Please be aware that all the published photos in this report have to be taken by you and are not the property of a third party. By sending this report you are giving us the legal right of use for your pictures (if we publish the report). The copyrights still belong to you after all.** [X] Yes, I confirm that all photos are mine.

**We would appreciate it if you could include the following topics (the report should be at least two pages long, there is no maximum):**

* **Preparation:** Recommendations about preparing to leave, for example (if applicable) Visa, insurance, travel? How was the application process at the university abroad? Were there any introduction events? Were they obligatory and when did they take place? Was there a Buddy program or tutors?
* **Accommodation:** How did you find your accommodation? Any tips about mistakes that should be avoided? Were there any special student accommodations? The cost of rent? Which area of living would you recommend?
* **Studying at the university abroad:** How was the day to day life on campus? Was the attendance mandatory? Which courses did you take? Were you allowed to take courses from different faculties? Please attach links to the course list if possible. How did the exams take place? Were there any language courses? What is your overall opinion of the university in general? How well did the university take care of international/exchange students?
* **Day to day life and free time:** How high are the costs of living in total? How much money should be accessible monthly? How much does the public transportation cost? What can an exchange student do in their free time? What did you do?
* **Conclusion:** worst and best experience
* **Suggestions/Feedback:** In your opinion, how can we improve our exchange program especially considering consulting, information, application process at the Viadrina? – This section is just for the department of international affairs of the Viadrina and will not be published.

Since I had already completed a semester abroad during my bachelor's degree and enjoyed this stay very much, it was clear to me at the beginning of my master's degree that I wanted to go abroad for another semester. My interest in studying abroad in Poland had steadily increased thanks to the cross-border education system of the European University Viadrina Frankfurt Oder and its strong presence in terms of numerous partnerships with universities and institutes in Poland.

I also saw my stay in Poland as an opportunity which contributes to a valuable personal and professional development, because I have already learned at a young age that the experience of living in another country can shape my character particularly in a positive way.

The Erasmus experience gave me the opportunity to get a better picture of the Polish academic environment. In addition to my interest in studying in Poland, I was of course also interested in the people and their culture, and thanks to the Erasmus program I was able to gain many new impressions.

It is important to plan and apply for the semester abroad early (usually 1 year before the actual departure; more information about application deadlines and documents to be submitted can be found on the website of the International Office). We had to prepare a resume and write letter of motivation and prove that we meet the language level requirement. Poznan was my first choice, so I am glad it all worked well.

The procedure for the course selection was also without any problems. You will receive an email from the partner university with the access data for the respective university website, which contains all information for international students as well as the selectable courses. If you have decided which courses you would like to take, simply enter your provisional choice in Learning Agreement A, which is then credited by the various departments. This document must be completed before departure, signed and sent to International Office.

You really don't have to worry about finding a room in Poznan. The university offers three student dormitories: Fenkis, Dewizka and Atol. There is also private accommodation (Polonez). This offers many additional services and is somewhat "better" equipped (own bathroom, own kitchen, gym room, etc.) than the other three dormitories. However, the most popular accommodations are the Dewizka and Feniks student dormitories. These are only 5 minutes apart and it takes about 15 minutes by tram to the university.

In the dormitories you share a room with another person. This offers 1 bed, 1 desk, 1 desk chair, 1 wardrobe half and a chest of drawers. Whether you have a separate kitchen and bathroom depends on the respective dorm. As far as I know, Dewizka and Atol have their own kitchenette and bathroom. In Fenkis, on the other hand, you have to share the bathroom with the neighboring room. And there is a shared kitchen that is used by about 10-12 people. The rents in Poznan, not as expected, are a bit lower than in Germany. You should expect prices between € 100 and € 200.

The Erasmus organization and ESN also offer inexpensive and interesting city trips over the semester, through which you can meet many new people. A lot is organized here via Facebook and it is worth adding the Facebook groups to find out more. During our stay, the ESN team had a total of three organized trips (Warsaw, Wroclaw and Krakow). This allowed us to get to know the other major cities in Poland. In addition, the University and the ESN team organized an “Orientation Week” in the first week. Numerous activities, parties and introductory evenings were held during this week, which made it easier to get in touch with the other Erasmus students.

The Economics and Business University is located in the middle of the city center and is served by many buses and trams. The faculty organizes an introductory week, which you will be informed about by email and on the homepage. Again, there is a Facebook group that you can add beforehand. The organization and enrollment at the university were very well organized.

A distinction is made between Erasmus courses and English-language modules. In both cases, however, there are always only exchange students in the respective courses, as these are usually not intended for Polish students. I myself chose courses from the Erasmus program. The lectures are held in English. This makes it very easy to follow the lectures and no Polish language skills are required.

In principle, studying in Poznan is a little easier, but involves more effort. In contrast to Viadrina, the courses in Poznan are kept small and rather class-based. Verbal participation and timely preparation for the course are therefore very important if you want to collect points at the end and want to achieve a good grade accordingly. Almost every week you have deadlines for submissions, homework and presentations that have to be kept. What I liked about the university is the large and interesting range of management courses. The university also offers Polish courses to ERASMUS students.

The leisure activities are very diverse in Poznan. In your free time, almost all doors are open to you. There are numerous shopping centers (Avenida, Posnania, Pestka, Plaza etc.), cafes, restaurants and bars. But also, many sports and cultural offers. addition, as a student you get discounts on many entries and events. The leisure offer is therefore ideal for students.

Poznan is very well equipped for public transport. The city has a large tram and bus network, so you can get from A to B at any time. The tram runs through the night until about 3 a.m., so you don't have to worry about getting home. Poznan has a relatively concentrated center; everything can be easily reached by foot or bike.

Looking back, I can say that the semester abroad in Poznan was one of my best experiences. It helped me to better understand the culture and language of this country and to develop myself personally. I was able to gain many new impressions and learned to master new challenges.