

STUDENTENBERICHT – SEMESTER ABROAD

PREPARATIONS

I did my semester abroad in Bratislava, Slovakia at Ekonomicka Universita v Bratislave. I chose this particular university due to the fact, that it is university of economics and I study International Business Administration. Location was another advantage as I could travel and see more of Europe. I applied in the international office of Viadrina University with the required papers and soon got positive answer from university in Bratislava accepting me for my Erasmus semester. I applied also for „Buddy” program, in which ESN in Bratislava assigned me a student from Bratislava to pick me up and help me with any problems I might have during my semester.

ACCOMMODATION

University in Bratislava accepted my request for a room in a student dormitory and assigned me to one which is located at Starohajska 8 Street. It is a dormitory with „flats” - 2 rooms, toilet and a bathroom. There is one single room, usually given to a student staying already for a second semester and a second room, which 3 people can share. The rooms are with basic necessities: 3 beds, 3 wardrobes and unfortunately only 2 desks with chairs. No lamps, but there's an option to buy a desk lamp in IKEA for 6 Euros only. On the other hand, the 3-people-room has a balcony. Lastly, per floor (4 flats) there is a kitchen. Students need to provide for themselves equipment such as pots and plates, as well as fridge.

Learning room is located downstairs as well as laundry room – one laundry costs 1,6 Euros. There is also a set of rules student need to follow – for example drinking in the kitchen is forbidden; no guests after 22:00 and you can enter dormitory only with your identification card. Starohajska dormitory is located close to many bus stops, from which you can easily get to university or city centre(3-month-ticket for students costs 36 Euros).

STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY

Classes in the summer semester start usually at 9 and can last till 20. They are done mostly in english, though it is possible to also have them in german or for example spanish. Courses that I have done mostly consisted of mid-term exams, essay and final exam. There can also be group

projects.

During long day at university there are shops where you can buy pizza and tasty sandwiches. There is also canteen, where you use your student card from Bratislava University – ISIC card. Once a week you can top it up and later at a machine (which is only in slovak) you can order a dinner (for 2 Euros).

FREE TIME

University and ESN organises many different activities you can be a part of. During Welcoming Week you will be shown around, got to hear many speeches and where is what. There is a sport club with many programs, but students prefer to sign up for a fitness club in the city. ESN EU organises also many activities, theme parties and trips where you can go, meet new people and see many beautiful places and cities, like Prague or Budapest.

CONCLUSION

Unfortunately, I had hopes for a better quality of studies in Bratislava and got slightly disappointed. The teachers of some of my courses were unorganized, not answering the emails or some questions. Others had some problems in english and it was hard to get the information of what to study from them.

Besides that, the canteen was problematic – you have to order your dinner downstairs (food is upstairs) only counting on somebody translating the menu for you or your dictionary.

Nevertheless, all in all I enjoyed my stay in Bratislava. I managed to obtain many ECTS points, met new people I still keep in touch with, learned more about different cultures and saw many beautiful places.