



Exchange Report

THE BASICS

Your first name: [Hart de Loi](#)

Your email address: hdeloi@uvic.ca

Your partner university: [Philipps-Marburg Universitat](#)

Your UVic major during the exchange: [History](#)

UVic session(s) during which you did your exchange: [2005 sept-jan, though I continued to stay in Marburg and attend the University till August of 2006](#)

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GENERAL EVALUATION

Please rate your overall exchange experience on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best rating):

Rating: [4](#)

Comments: [I really enjoyed Germany and Europe in general a lot more than I actually liked Marburg's University \(mainly because of the differences between the Canadian University System and Germany's\). I would definitely take the exchange again, I spend 1 year in Germany and had the time of my life, traveling, learning a new language, adapting to a different culture. Overall, an awesome experience.](#)

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ARRIVAL

How satisfied were you with your experience of arriving in your host country or city? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best rating):

Rating: [3](#)

Comments: [In Germany its pretty much do it yourself, customer service is non existent. So all we had was a place to meet, the hardest part was getting there for orientation. Everything else was nicely taken care of. They had student helpers with t-shirts etc helping students much like Uvic does. German red tape is everywhere and is a big pain and the people at Marburg do take you around to help you get settled with all the formalities.](#)

What assistance, if any, did you receive when you arrived at your exchange destination?

How difficult was it for you to obtain your travel documents (visa, etc.)?

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ORIENTATION AND ASSISTANCE

How satisfied were you with the orientation and assistance available to students at your partner university? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best rating):

Rating: [4](#)

Comments: [The orientation people were helpful and generally everything I needed to accomplish in the first couple of days was so. In general the international staff doesn't contact you and other students with any group activities really other than orientation week, which concluded in a getaway to a hostel somewhere. Its very hands off compared to the Canadian counterparts I think.](#)

How easy was it to find information you needed to know right away?

What help did you receive from the international staff or office?

What was your impression of the international staff or office?

What was the orientation like at your partner university, if there was one, and how well did it suit your needs?

What was it like to adjust to the culture of your exchange site and were there people you could talk to about what you were experiencing?

It was awkward to adapt to German culture, but not that difficult.

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HOUSING

How satisfied were you with the housing available to students? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best rating):

Rating: 3

Comments Barebones is how it is in Germany, although the prices aren't bad. Student Residences are located away from the campus, in 3 different locations. Mostly exchange students live in the residences and there is a bar in the student village. No real supervision or any feeling of it being a university residence other than the landlord person. There is no on-campus option. Most of the buildings are old and internet service is not always an option.

How early could students move in to housing at the beginning of term? You can move in at any time. It's much like an apartment village than a "residence", no real RA's or anything.

What options were available for meal plans or cooking facilities? Some floors shared a communal kitchen, other rooms; at a higher price you get your own kitchen and toilet. Also there are communal showers and toilets.

How satisfied were you with the food?

How close are the residences to the university? 10-30 minutes by bus

Could students stay in the residences during major holidays? Yes

Which residence would you recommend to UVic students? Studentendorf, THE BEST, by far.

If you lived in off-campus housing, how easy was it to find?

What should future UVic exchange students know about living off-campus? It's pretty much do it yourself.

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COURSE REGISTRATION

How satisfied were you with the registration process at your partner university? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best rating):

Rating: 4

Comments: Pretty simple.

Please describe the registration process at your partner university.

Basically, here are the steps

1. Find calendar for your specific department
2. Pick out courses
3. Attend courses to register

What kind of help was available?

You could talk to the international office for help

How successful were you in registering for classes you wanted?

Fairly successful, they gave you priority if you were an exchange student.

What advice would you offer to next year's exchange students about registration at your partner university?

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ACADEMICS

How satisfied were you with the academic program at your partner university? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best rating):

Rating: 3

Comments: Different teaching styles, workloads.

How did the style of teaching at your partner university compare with that at UVic? Its much more close knit groups and talking and exploring ideas. Not much lecturing

How did the workload compare to what you would expect at UVic? A little less than UVic.

How many courses did you take in your first term abroad? 2, plus language courses

Your second term? 1 plus language course

What would you recommend as an appropriate course load for other UVic students visiting your partner university? You can probably manage 3-4 courses nicely.

What specific courses would you recommend to visiting UVic students? Language Center Courses

Why? Improve your German, meet other students learning German.

If you studied in a non-English speaking country, what was the availability of courses offered in English? There weren't many courses offered in English I had 1 course in English.

NOTE: MARBURG NOW OFFERS MORE COURSES IN ENGLISH. SEE UNIVERSITY WEBSITE.

What advice would you give UVic students about succeeding academically at your partner university? Take a light course load

What was your impression of the computer facilities, library, and internet access at your partner university?

Pretty good, multiple locations for computers, wireless locations, multiple libraries are confusing

What electronic devices would you recommend a UVic student bring (laptop, PDA, etc.)?

Laptop, Cell phone

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COSTS

Please indicate currency: Euro, im not really sure for this section, your estimates were about right.

Books - per term:

Accommodation - per month:

Meals - per month:

Local transportation - per month:

Health insurance - per term:

Personal spending - per term:

Communications (phone, etc.) - per term:

Other university related fees - per term:

EXTRA-CURRICULAR/SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

How satisfied were you with the out-of-class opportunities at your exchange site? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best rating):

Rating: 4

Comments:

What organized activities (clubs, sports, etc.) were available to students? **There were a whole range of clubs that you could join with a brochure.**

What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future exchange students?

Soccer with other students

What do you recommend other visiting students see or do on their weekends or holidays?

Europe

What opportunities were there for students to work on-campus?

Not too many, mostly for older people

Off-campus?

Lots, but you must speak German very well

What volunteer or internship opportunities were there for students?

No idea.

SAFETY AND HEALTH

How safe did you feel at your exchange site? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best rating):

Rating: 4

Comments: **Nothing was done for my safety but in the end I didn't care because I knew my life was in my own hands. Common Sense.**

What are the biggest safety concerns for future exchange students going to your exchange site?

Basically everything in the residence is not geared towards safety. No fire alarms and stuff like that. Old buildings. Big windows, you can fall out of.

What are the biggest health concerns for future exchange students going to your exchange site?

PERSONAL AND CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

What was it like making friends?

Very fun and successful!

How successful were you at making friends with local (i.e., not international) students?

Decent, lots wanted to speak to me.

What was it like to adjust to the culture of your exchange site?

What, if any, cultural differences did you find particularly challenging?

German people in general are cold to strangers. That's a little discouraging at times.

What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?

Food, soccer, beer.

How were you treated by local people? By university staff and faculty? By students?

All the staff and students were great!

As far as you could tell, how easy would it be for students with disabilities to study at your partner university?

Impossible. Wheelchair access is very limited

For students who are visible minorities in your host country?

No problem.

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TAKING STOCK

What are the three most important things for students to take with them when they go to your host country or region?

Lots of money and a passport

What are the three most important things you would tell a UVic student who is going to your partner university on exchange?

Have fun, don't be afraid to travel, get out, and don't worry about school.

Is there any other information that you think might prove useful to UVic exchange students attending your host university?

What was the most rewarding part of your exchange experience?

Improved my life.

What was your greatest challenge on the exchange?

Living in a German world

How has your perspective changed as a result of the exchange?

I love life more

What else do you want to say about your exchange experience?