



Student Exchange Program

International Student Services

Exchange Final Report

Student Information

Faculty at UVic Social Sciences
Major/Minor Undeclared
Host University Philipps Univeristy
Host Country Germany
Dates of Exchange September 2018-December 2018

Overall Exchange Experience

Please Rate your Overall Exchange Experience

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What was the most rewarding part of your exchange experience? Please outline any highlights.

The people I met through the exchange program at the university in Germany and all the travel I got to do while abroad.

What was the greatest challenge during your exchange?

Not knowing the language. Figuring out how a German university works in terms of credits, courses, tutorials and grading.

Travel

Cost of air travel \$2400 Round trip Vancouver to Europe
Cost of ground transportation (ex. monthly bus pass) Bus and train pass was included in our semester fee (280 Euros)
Did host university representatives meet you at the airport? No

Is there easy transportation between the airport and university? Yes

Orientation

Is there an organized orientation session upon arrival?

Yes. Wasn't very informative and organized on the first day. We were left standing around not knowing if we were in the correct area for a long time. After the first day of orientation it got better.

How easy was it to find the info you needed to know upon arrival?

Once the orientation started we got most info but some key information was missed about our accommodation and about life in Germany in general.

What assistance did you receive from your host institution upon arrival?

3-day orientation program. Included opening a German bank account, paying the semester fee, registering with the city, basic info on classes, getting keys for accommodation, info about pre session German class.

Accommodation

Is on-campus accommodation available? Student accommodation is available but not on campus

If yes, did you live on campus? I lived in student accommodation

Would you recommend this to future students? Yes

If you lived off-campus, how did you find housing?

I lived in the student housing and it is good, many different options for which part of the city you want to be in. I was in Carl-duisberg Haus. I highly recommend the dorm I was in was clean, bright, and spacious. An uphill walk to it, but located right above the old town.

Approximately how much money would you budget per month for living, including accommodation and meals?

Language Programs

Is there a language program available either before or during the semester?

There is a language course available beforehand that is intensive for six weeks, and there is also ones available during the semester.

Is there an additional cost for the language training?

It was about 300 euros for the intensive pre language course

Academics

Was it possible for you to get all the courses that you wanted?

Yes

Please describe the course registration process

It opens up very close to the start of the semester. There is one program that lists the courses and another program where you register. Can be difficult if you are trying to take courses outside of your faculty. Need to do lots of communication with the profs and coordinators. Can be confusing which classes are in English and how many ECTS they are worth. I would recommend students seeing if they can sign up for the IUSP program. Designed for north American students. That allows you to line up your semester with uvics. And helps you find English courses.

Once classes began the instruction was very good. Very hands on and lots of in class discussion. Profs want you to succeed and will help you do so.

Describe the manner and quality of instruction at your host university

What do you feel is the greatest academic benefit you have gained personally from your exchange?

Gaining presentation and discussion skills. Both were large parts of my marks and I haven't had that in classes before so I was forced to participate and engage more.

Personal and Cultural Connections

How easy was it to adjust to the local culture? What (if any) cultural differences did you find particularly challenging? What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?

All around it was easy to adjust to. Most people speak English but don't always appreciate when you don't know their native language.

There were workout classes available but they were taught in German. I joined a gym where the staff knew English. There were also intramural sports teams to sign up for.

What kinds of cultural, athletic and social activities were available for students at your host institution?