

Student Experience Report

PREPARATION:

Around September 2024, I began applying for Erasmus+ funding for my second semester in Stavanger, Norway, after beginning my first semester in Oldenburg, Germany. My second semester in Norway was a required element of my studies because the University of Stavanger is a partner university for my program, and I didn't need to complete any additional applications to be admitted. My department at the University of Oldenburg (the sending school) and the University of Stavanger (the receiving institution) signed an online learning agreement that I submitted with my Erasmus+ funding application, which included all of my modules and credit hours. After I submitted all the necessary paperwork and received confirmation of the scholarship by the end of November 2024, the application process went smoothly overall. Relocating to Norway was really simple. The university's course administration made it easy for us to find accommodations, and the housing contract was signed before we ever left Oldenburg. Additionally, I was able to pay my rent in Norway right away because I received my Erasmus+ initial 70% payment exactly in time.

TRAVEL, ARRIVAL AND ACCOMMODATION: I travelled to Norway by air and arrived in about 1 hour. I ordered a bolt upon arrival with other colleagues which took me directly to my residence. My dorm keys were ready for pickup as everything had been put in place by SIS Housing which is the institution responsible for schooling accommodation. The whole checking in process was very smooth.

STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY: Officially, classes began on January 20, 2024. During the first week, the administration introduced us to the library, the university campus, the administrative staff, and other locations. We had many guest lecturers who taught us modules that were highly pertinent to the master's program, and the classes we organised were enjoyable. We participated in trainings, workshops, historical site visits, and volunteer opportunities with organisations like Caritas. Each module concluded with the production of a research paper, and the learning approach was quite regimented. I authored four research papers in total for my evaluation, and outside evaluators graded them to guarantee fairness.

EVERYDAY LIFE: I'll begin by saying that, out of all the European countries I have visited, Norway is the most enjoyable and costly. Indeed, Norway is incredibly costly! Nonetheless, Norwegians are incredibly amiable and entertaining. We enjoyed the nightlife in Stavanger's streets and went to a lot of pubs and karaoke bars. For many of us, integrating was made easy by the fact that everyone spoke English.

CONCLUSION: I finished all of the modules I had chosen, which were approved by the learning agreement. I have only gotten grades for the Migration, integration and social protection module

thus far. I'm hoping to have all of my grades by the end of June. All in all, I had an amazing educational experience. Excellent university with a well-stocked library and a very well equipped student building. The university has very knowledgeable and helpful instructors, a fantastic gym, and decent housing. I formed new acquaintances and strengthened old ones.



JOURNEY TO NORWAY WITH ONE OF MY COLLEAGUES



MY FIRST PRESENTATION IN CLASS ON MY MIGRATION HISTORY



DINNER WITH MY KITCHEN MATES IN THE SIS RESIDENCE



LAST CLASS PICTURE TO MARK THE END OF OUR COMPULSORY MODULE