

Report on My Stay at the University of Stavanger – Erasmus+ Scholarship Summer Semester 2024

**Stavanger, Norway.
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Planning

Planning for my stay at the University of Stavanger began well in advance, because I am doing an Erasmus Mundus Master's, in which I need to move to another country each semester. I researched extensively about the university, its courses, and the city of Stavanger, including its main tourist attractions and the cities I would be able to go once there. The core of my planning was regarding fundings, because I knew that Stavanger was an extremely expensive country. In this way, I looked for grants and scholarships that I could apply and came across the Erasmus+ grant.

Organisation

Organising the necessary documents and applications was a meticulous process. This included gathering transcripts, letters of recommendation, a statement of purpose, and completing the Erasmus+ Learning Agreement. I also ensured that my passport and other identification documents were up to date.

Travel

I booked my flight to Stavanger well in advance to secure a good price. Upon arrival at Stavanger Airport, I took a taxi to my accommodation as I had significant luggage and it was late in the night. The journey was smooth, and the airport was well-connected to the city (15minutes by car).

Arrival

I arrived after some of my classmates, so they showed me the campus, the city centre, and explained me all the necessary information regarding public transportation. Upon arrival, the student office also offered an orientation session that covered essential information about living and studying in Stavanger.

Accommodation

I opted for university accommodation, which was conveniently located near the campus. The application for housing was part of the initial application process, and I received confirmation of my accommodation two months before my arrival.

Living Conditions

The accommodation was clean, basic furnished, and included basic amenities such as internet access and laundry facilities. My flatmates were other international students, which provided an excellent opportunity to make friends and learn about different cultures.

Studying at the Host University

The courses, especially the assignments, were challenging but manageable. The professors were knowledgeable and supportive, providing ample resources for studying. The university also offered additional academic support services, including tutoring and writing centres.

Everyday Life

Living in Stavanger was a unique experience. The city is small but vibrant, with a mix of modern amenities and natural beauty. Public transportation was reliable, and I frequently used the bus.

Leisure Time

I took advantage of the university's student clubs and societies, which offered a wide range of activities from sports to cultural events. Weekends were often spent exploring the surrounding fjords and hiking trails, which provided a great balance to my academic responsibilities.

General Experience

Overall, my stay at the University of Stavanger was incredibly rewarding. The combination of high-quality education, supportive faculty, and a welcoming community made for a memorable exchange experience. I gained not only academic knowledge but also personal growth through the diverse cultural interactions and the independence of living abroad.

Tips for Other Students

- Do: Start planning early, stay organized, and keep all important documents handy.
- Don't: Underestimate the importance of the orientation session and the resources provided by the international office.
- Do: Engage with local students and participate in extracurricular activities to enrich your experience.
- Don't: Overlook the importance of balancing academics with leisure activities to avoid burnout.

In conclusion, my exchange at the University of Stavanger was a highly enriching experience that I would recommend to any student considering studying abroad. The combination of academic excellence and cultural immersion provides a unique opportunity for personal and professional growth.