Experience report

In the end of December in 2019, we started our preparation to study abroad, we finished the first semester and our classes in Oldenburg, I did my German language course exam in the university in Oldenburg, it was the last course that we have before our trip to study in Norway. In the holidays time, we have celebrated together with my study group friends; also with friends, I met them in Germany before. My study in migration and intercultural relations at the University of Oldenburg introduced me to many kind colleagues. We were supposed to travel to Norway to start our semester in mid of January, At that time we had a lot of thinking about our travel plan and how we could find a reasonable accommodation in Norway.

I was searching on the websites to find available room in a shared flat in Stavanger. Luckily, I found a shared apartment in Stavanger near the University of Stavanger. Where I was supposed to take classes during my second semester. We traveled through Hamburg airport to Sola airport in Stavanger. We remembered during our trip the events that we had in Oldenburg, and the weather was significant. During the first week in the Stavanger, I started my classes and registered at the University of Stavanger, I got my student ID on the same day. Our first-class was to welcoming us to the university. The teachers and staff gave us a lector about the history of Norway and the regulation and the camp life in Stavanger.

After the first week, I started to learn more about the transpiration in the city and the currency, shops and markets. The life expanses were as we expected, it is much higher than the prices range in Germany. Compared with Germany, there was also a difference in income salaries with a higher tax percentage in Norway. As students, we shared our information and tips to find lower prices for our needs and daily life. The weather in the mid of Januaries was frigid and rainy all day. We had a class at the university one time a week. We focused more on the migration topics related to the welfare state system. We also learned about the Nordic term and the migration waves that arrived in Norway. During that time, we explored the university campus, which was held there. As international students came from Germany, we always share our experience with the Norwegian student who wants to know more about Oldenburg and Germany. This was a tool for linking cities in very warm ties.

My flatmate was working at the University of Stavanger in the oil engineering lab. He helps me to discover the university and the city faster than was I expected. We usually went walking in the town after I finished my classes and my writing, Norway is a beautiful destination to practice sports life and walk, where you can see a lot of lovely places and art in streets with beautiful nature. As a group participated in the student organization club, we went to a hockey
game in the local hockey league, and we stand with the Stavanger city team. Our classes were intensive, so we had to write papers and proper our self to read several different materials as junior researchers, the library was a tranquil place with many bookshelves, and there was a comfortable sitting area, we enjoyed the time we spent there.

One crucial thing any international student should be aware of is to get a lot of information about the country you are going to. It's essential to do your own research about the general things in the distention country. I did a little research about Norway before coming and what are the possibilities to gain from the university beside the lectures. There are several utility tools you can have it if you ask your university. The last April, when all-world starts the concerns about the pandemic situation we faced the lockdown, we were in an uncertain case no one knows about the next steps. With a lack of information about the Covid-19 and many people they died, with all the difficult news we heard from the media and watching the television, this was like a disaster. Our university announced close all the departments and turned the lecture to be online. We think about our families and the situation if it gets worse.

In the last two months, we should have our courses to properly our self to write our papers and uploaded them in the online portal. However, we engaged with our classes using the online tools, the new experience of using the technology in the pandemic situation gives us the push factor to learn more about the tech and the online meeting tools. With the advantage we get from the internet, we could meet with our professors to finish our semester classes. Our university professors and staff in Germany or Norway were very kind to us, responding to our questions and concerns. The pandemic is an unusual circumstance, we all didn’t know in the first period how we could pass this situation. Subsequently, the use of the health mask and fellow health safety instructions helps us keep secure against the pandemic infection. Now we are moving over the pandemic situation slowly to find the vaccine. In this time what we have to do is to keep solidarity with each other. However, as international students, we face the limitation of mobility regarding the pandemic, affecting our daily life experience in general, but this situation makes us aware more about building networks and keeping connections through different methods. It's essential to meet new people and make a relation with new friends abroad at such times they become your first resource about all information you need and the vital instructions. I would not recommend spending the first period of your study in arranging your journeys in Norway, you will need to know more about which activities held by the university and keep your mind the weather conditions. In Norway, the weather is cold most of the months, but with spring, the landscapes and the outside activities are beautiful to visit. After we finished the semester at the University of Stavanger, we gain important
experience in the learning methods with our master's study, also the life experience about how we are dealing with an emerging situation with the pandemic.

The library at University of Stavanger.
Where we attend the hockey game. The glory hall

The prikastolen in Norway
Some of the city street art, you could see around the town.