

THE EXPERIENCE REPORT

Time period: 02.02.2017-16.06.2017

Host University: HANZE UNIVERSITY (GRONINGEN - NETHERLANDS)

Preparation

Registration was a bit long due to misunderstood within internal system of the host university, but could be solved the same day. We also received all necessary information for the welcoming day in advance and was well organized.

Travel and Arrival

I travelled from Bremen to Groningen by bus using Flixbus. The trip was about 2 hours, and thus not inconvenient at all. From the central station, two lines of busses could lead me to my new place. The distance to walk from the station was about 500meters, which was not an issue.

Accommodation

Using the contacts of another Student of our Master Program, I could find an accommodation 2 months before starting the lectures. It was a Villa shared by 5 students in total, with garage and garden and totally furnished. The place was located outside the city-center, but only 10minutes from the university with the bike. It was a residential area with families, very quiet and comfortable.

My rent was 315euro/month which was cheaper and with more advantages than places provided in the student dorms.

Staying at the host university

We had some trouble to register due to host university internal issues, but after one week we had all the papers ready and also registered in the city.

My appreciation of the lecture was shared. I found some of them less consistent than my background or the lectures of the core University. The other half of the lectures was very interesting to me since most of all the lectures were totally new to me. We also had lectures from guest companies (ECN) which were very interesting and valuable in this specific field.

Another difficult point for this master was the schedule that was changing all the time, making our personal planning difficult to manage. We also ended up with a very compact schedule at the end of the semester with exams and reports.

Everyday life and leisure time

Groningen is a very nice city, it has a size between Oldenburg and Bremen in Germany. A lot of students are living in the city and the people are open and nice. It's a bike city and according to me the easiest and fastest option for transportation in the city.

Compared to Bremen, Groningen has the same prices for accommodation and food. This made the transition easy for me. The city also has a lot of entertainments, and I enjoyed a lot the free time I had with my friends and classmates.

General Experience

In general, I liked the information and material that I got during the course, but requires additional content such as laboratories, more technical supports, industrial application lectures. Also align the background content with core universities of our program and some reorganization in the exam/schedule management will save a lot of time and workload for the student and teaching staff. Finally, I am sure I will miss Groningen, because I really liked my stay there.

