

I am a master's student pursuing Erasmus Mundus EuroAqua: Hydro-informatics and Water Management.

As it is an Erasmus Mundus study programme, every semester of my study is in the partner University in the EU.

I spent the first semester in BTU Cottbus – Senftenberg, Germany. My second semester was in Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK. And my mobility semester was in University of Nice – Sophia Antipolis, France

The course coordinator, Ms Arianna Calza, helped us with the modules which were supposed to be taught to us in University of Nice – Sophia Antipolis.

We were given the schedule for the first week. There were many events for the Erasmus student in the university as well as in the city. We had an orientation programme which highlighted the key points of the semester which included the courses which we will be studying during the semester.

The system of study in University of Nice – Sophia Antipolis was quite different as compared to Cottbus, as many professors were visiting professors and were from Singapore and also from Australia. We used to study one course during the entire week and we had to complete an assignment based on the study material. In the next week, we had started with another course. Whereas in Cottbus, we were studying all the courses during the week, one class per week.

Also we were not studying in the main university of Nice. We were in another small campus which was dedicated for sustainable development but there were very few students in this building so it was not easy to meet new people.

As English was the language of instruction but as the locals don't speak English, it was very difficult to talk to anyone regarding anything. It is always beneficial to have a prior knowledge of French as it will be very difficult to live in France without the knowledge of French language.

The cost of living is higher as compared to Cottbus, and as an Erasmus Student, I was staying in the residence. The residence is not the perfect place as the kitchen and the toilets were shared with other people of the floor and also the size of the room is not that big. But it had nice connectivity with the buses and also was close to the University. As we were given this location, we didn't have any other option, but it is advised that if you like more privacy, it's better to go for other student accommodations in Nice.

Also for non-European students, always apply for a visa before going to France. You cannot get your German visa converted to a French visa upon arrival. It will be impossible to do that.

Nice is a very beautiful city and the moment you land in Nice, you will fall in love with the city. It has a beautiful but rocky beach. You have a very nice promenade and in the evenings you can go for a run along the sea.