

ERASMUS PERSONAL REPORT

France, Nice

Université de Nice Sophia Antipolis

Hydro-Informatics and Water Resource Management

Preparation (planning, organization and applying to the host university)

Before going abroad, I would strongly recommend all non-European students to apply for a French visa. It takes time and additional expenses, as you need to collect and translate the documents. However, that will allow you to apply for CAF financial help, which covers with a return above cost. Another point is accommodation, you either can apply for student dormitory or look for a shared apartment. As for the first option, there are different kinds of dormitories - single, double, sharing, with or without kitchen/bathroom; location can be chosen as well - Nice, Antibes, Sophia Antipolis, so before choosing, check out the photos, living conditions and remoteness (unfortunately, they aren't the same as in Cottbus). The second option is more expensive, especially in high season (May-September), but more comfortable as well.

Accommodation

As I have already mentioned, I lived in student dormitory - Résidence universitaire Romain Gary, which is around the city center. There is a parking, a study room, a laundry, a small gym and a common room inside the building. I chose a single room with kitchen and bathroom with a nice view on the hill.



Studying at the host university

Be ready for a new educational model. First, you are not allowed to choose the courses, you just follow the given timetable, which, by the way, changes a lot during the semester. The timetable was quite busy and tight. Second, some subjects are divided into sub-subjects and each of them has an exam in the end (sometimes a report). For instance, Hydraulics & Hydrology module was divided in 5 sub- subjects, so for one subject we had 5 exams. Besides, there were some practical classes in the mountain region, which was an unforgettable experience for me. Third, there are a lot of visiting professors from all over the world - Singapore, Australia, the USA. This fact affects the timetable in the way, that during two weeks one subject occupies all the class hours. But, those specialists brought a different perspective on key issues of hydro-informatics and water management to us, which is of great value.

To sum it up, take your time to get used to another system of education and enjoy your Erasmus studies there!



The Alps. View from the classroom



Practical class - Esteron river



Practical class - Esteron river

Daily life and free time

For me, one of the main reason of going abroad was to see France and especially French Riviera. And now I can tell with certainty that daily life and free time was the best part of my Erasmus exchange.

Besides, there is a wonderful community of international students in Nice - Erasmus Student Network, which won't stand you be bored and lonely. They organize trips and different events every week, so be ready to study hard and to party even harder. A small tip for outgoing students - pay for "culture and sport facilities" during registration at the university and then get a "Pass culture", that gives you free entrance to performances in Nice Opera, Nice and Antibes National Theatres and etc.

Even routine life in Nice is so perfect. You have everything you need to be happy - beautiful azure sea, long beaches, palm trees and delicious French food under the sun.

