



France, Nice
Université de Nice Sophia Antipolis
Hydroinformatics and Water Management
Semester 3

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

If you apply for an Erasmus, start as early as you can with informing and applying. Otherwise it will be stressful! Take your time also to read or talk to as many people as you can who did an Erasmus at your future host university. The organisation and information exchange with the university in Nice was very difficult and slow. Often, I didn't get an answer at all and had to write lots of E-Mails to get a response (sometimes I didn't get one at all). My hope was that it would have become better once I arrived, but it was still complicated. Once there I was able to go to the office and talk to the person in charge face to face. If you go, choose one Semester - otherwise the organisation will be complicated, especially since the timetable is changing a lot.

The coordinators and people to contact for Hydroinformatics and Water Management are Philippe Gourbesville and Laure Vallet (laure.vallet@univ-cotedazur.fr). It was very confusing who was responsible for us. Ali Beikbaghban (beikba@polytech.unice.fr) was responsible to help with accommodation and maybe a few other things but he didn't answer me at all. A student college used to call the people and was quite successful with this strategy.

You can also register for Caf - do it as soon as you can because it also takes a long time until they check your application. It can be good financial support for the relatively expensive life in Nice.

Accommodation

I got my letter of acceptance very late, and only after reminding them to send it. With the acceptance letter I started to search for accommodation. At this point, it was already too late because all the cheaper student accommodation was sold out and the person who was responsible at the university at the university in Nice didn't react to my E-Mails at all. With that I decided to come a week earlier with friends, doing Airbnb, to look at the private accommodation that I found at <https://www.appartager.com/> . From Germany the communication was also very difficult, but it went much better when I was in Nice and I was able to have a look (you really should do this). After one week and a few options, I chose accommodation near to the Musée d'Art Moderne et d'Art Contemporain. This is a nice area, very near to the old town, tram, bus and beach. Remember that the campus is not in the city and you must take the express bus 230 or another one if you should decide to live in Antibes etc. You can check with the app Moovit. The bus had a lot of problems. Sometimes it took me 90 minutes because of traffic jams, protests etc. Depending on the time, the bus was sometimes full, and we had to wait for the next ones which once took me more than an hour.

I was very happy with my flat in the city. It is near to the social life in Nice and I was very lucky with my two flatmates, who became my best friends in Nice.

Studying at the host university

As I mentioned, the organisation part was extremely difficult as well as very stressful. The timetable was changing a lot. In some weeks you only had one or two lessons and other weeks, lessons every day for the whole day. Also, the courses were much more different than you would expect from the name. You will work with lots of different software and the explanations from the teachers are rather poor.

There are a lot of visiting professors from all over the world – for example Singapore, India. It sounds very interesting but some of the professors had a poor level of English, seemed sometimes annoyed and the teaching wasn't great either. It is very different to the BTU, which is of high quality, as I know now.

Daily life and free time

My daily life and free time were absolutely great. There is so much to see and to visit. If you come for the winter semester, use the warmth and sun for the beach as long as you can. Winter is, compared to Germany, very warm and sunny but normally not enough for a swim in the sea. October and November were very rainy, be prepared, there might be some floods caused by heavy rainfall. I liked the hikes in the mountains all around Nice.

Places you should definitely visit are: Menton, Monaco, Eze, Cap Ferrat, Antibes etc. Everything is easy to reach by public buses.

The single tickets for public transport cost 1,50. I used a monthly ticket for the first few months to save money. Trains are much more expensive. I used the app Moovit for information about public transport. There is also a good deal with the public bikes.

There were a lot of strikes during my stay which usually meant that the university had to be cancelled on the day because you can only reach this university location by public transport or car.



Eze.



Beach, Nice.