

Erasmus summer semester 2020 in Wien

ERM bachelor

Introduction

I am a Nepali student, studying bachelor's in environmental and Resources Management in Brandenburg Technische Universität since 2017 winter semester. This is my first undergraduate course and I find myself lucky to get associated with my home university in Cottbus, Germany, for granting this opportunity of abroad semester. I believe that experience of abroad semester for every student, is the great opportunity to explore the other side of world on their own, which only help student to grow for upcoming challenges in future.

Why Wien?

After living in Germany for more than four years, German language has become part of day to day life. As an international student, learning language is never ending process, there is always something to learn every day. One of the main reasons to choose Wien as my Erasmus destination was, because of German language with the intention to improve my German language skill. Also, because Wien is the most livable city to live in the world for ten times. I wanted to experience how it is to live in the most livable city in world, experience their culture, living lifestyle, and of course beautiful nature. Since I am also from landlocked country with hills and greenery, I can somehow relate Wien as my home country Nepal.

I could already speak German language fluently, it was necessary for to use this language skill to find some local jobs, in order to support my living cost. I am only funded half as an Erasmus student and though Wien is the most livable city in world, but it is expensive than cities like Cottbus and Berlin. As an international from developing countries like Nepal, the main source of financial support is the part time job that we do. In Wien, I was sure to get local job to finance rest of my expenses during my Erasmus stay.

Also, Erasmus is the great opportunity for young students like to explore beyond our comfort zone and do things on our own, which will be fruitful in our coming days. With the genuine support of both home as well as host universities, the journey of Erasmus became more interesting.

Impression of Wien

The first arrival in Wien on the date 16th of February 2020, train from Berlin to Wien was enjoyable. My new accommodation was little bit far from the crowd of main city but near to BOKU, surrounded by famous hills in Wien i.e. Kahlenberg and Leopoldberg, also many beautiful wine yard and parks. The Transportation of Wien is the first thing that impressed me. It was so easier to get from one point of the city to other point without wasting time in waiting trains, trams or buses. Every means of transportation was punctual and regular. Wien is good mix of culture, history, modernization and nature, or best of all world in one city. There is always something interesting to offer for people with diverse interests. Though some museums and historical entries fees are expensive but there are some special days where there are free entries possible. Students discounts are offered in some places. Especially, museums of histories, music and arts are must to watch and totally worth the time, money and energy spent. Wien also provide home like environment to the international people. The palaces and parks in Wien are huge and artistic.

BOKU life

My student life in Universität für Bodenkultur Wien has been different though amazing. The welcome program to college tour in initial days were nice organized. We were taught every tiny thing that was needed in student life example, using printing machine, validating our cards, looking for cheap food menu etc. I was glad to see how active the participation from other students' groups. This semester was everything online, so it was unique abroad semester. Still we managed to make some good friends, helping each other in assignment, played online games, and interacted through different online conferences.

COVID 19 Influence for Erasmus student

With the statement, "making best out of the situation" that was my moto to pass through the COVID19 influence. As an normal Erasmus student, we all had thought that we will be meeting new friends, have different experiences, and learn more about the new country and their culture, which we still managed to do somehow but still it was not as real as expected. Initially I was frustrated and regret about the whole situation but with the time and online classes, I kept myself engaged. I had plenty of time to restart my hobbies like practicing yoga, planting vegetables in my window corner and practicing cultural dance steps. My cooking skills also got better.

Conclusion

I would like to conclude by stating that Erasmus is really a great opportunity for all the students, especially for bachelor student. I personally got to meet so many good and experienced people in my Erasmus journey, from whom I learned so new things which will be defiantly helpful in my upcoming study and projects. Also, I would like to thank to my host university, home university and concerned authorities of Erasmus for assisting us to live this amazing journey in abroad semester.