

Report of Erasmus+ student exchange

Home University: Brandenburg University of Technology

Bachelor of Science, Environmental and Resource Management, Winter Semester 2015/16

Host University: Halmstad University, Halmstad, Sweden

Preparation (Planning, Organization, Application at Host University):

After the information session we had to decide on which universities to apply at and begin the list of modules for each university and motivation letters. The list of partner universities was published beforehand and so the favourite universities could be selected before the information sessions. Writing the Learning Agreement before Mobility was quite easy except for the classification of the subject area code, as a wide area of codes is applicable for my study programme. The approval for one of the potential host universities arrived in time for the application deadline of Halmstad University. The approval of Halmstad University also arrived within a few weeks. However, the coordinator at Halmstad University did not inform me that I would not be able to take one module. As soon as I arrived in Halmstad I could choose a new module and the decision if I could take that module was made within days.

One problem I had during the preparation process was that the document templates changed near the end of the application period. This caused problems when I had to write a Learning Agreement during mobility, as I also had to write a new Learning Agreement before mobility and get all necessary signatures for both Learning Agreements.

Accommodation and Arrival

During my stay in Halmstad I rented a room in a vacation-home area called "Strandparken". I could rent the room without prior notice of me needing it. First I tried to rent a room in the student dorms. However, the dorms were full and the international coordinator responsible for the dorms recommended "Strandparken" as an alternative. A lot of the other international students lived at "Strandparken". The beach was only 200 meters and the University 2 kilometres away. Everything, including the city centre, was easily reachable by bike. The rent was cheaper than the student dorms and I did not have to share a room, which I would have to do in a student dorm. I lived in a house with 4 and later 6 other students. The last 2 students arrived because parts of the vacation homes were rebuilt for the refugees.

Before the beginning of the semester the student union organized a 0-week. "Nollning" was a period of 10 days, where all new students and exchange students were introduced to the university, the city and the surrounding area as well as the other students in the same group. This Nollning was one of the best experiences during my exchange period.

Study at Host University

International students and Swedish students were mostly separated in the classes. Contact with national students was only possible outside of classes or in the rare occasion of a combined class. Halmstad University encourages students to study on their own. For questions all professors were available for private consultations. The communication between students and professors was easy, fast and very uncomplicated. All professors were called by their first names and they were helpful whenever anybody had any problems or questions.

The semester at Halmstad University is mostly divided into 2 terms. During each term I had 2 courses with exams at the end of the term. I liked this system because it took most of the stress out of the exams, especially as most exams last 4 to 5 hours.

Everyday life and Leisure Time

Due to the emphasize on self-study at Halmstad University, I had a lot of time outside of the university. I used this time, particularly on long week-ends, to travel through Sweden; especially the area surrounding Halmstad is interesting. During the week, I had time to go to the gym and to enjoy the city as well as the beach in Halmstad.

The student union organized different trips and events during the semester. Events like a traditional Christmas dinner, daytrips to Copenhagen or a weeklong trip to Lapland were organized for both international and national students.