

**ERASMUS+ 2017/18: Studierendenmobilität Studium (SMS)**

Persönlicher Erfahrungsbericht

PERSÖNLICHE ANGABEN

Nachname*	
Vorname*	
Studienfach	Software Engineering
Angestrebter Studienabschluss an der Universität Ulm	Master
Der Aufenthalt erfolgte im	3 Fachsemester
Auslandsstudienaufenthalt	Von 08/17 (MM/JJ) bis 12/17 (MM/JJ)
Gastland und Stadt	Norway - Gjøvic
Gasthochschule	NTNU
eMail-Adresse*	Michael.wolf@uni-ulm.de

EINVERSTÄNDNISERKLÄRUNG ZUR VERÖFFENTLICHUNG DES BERICHTS	ja	nein
Dieser Bericht darf an interessierte Studierende der Universität Ulm weitergegeben werden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dieser Bericht darf auf der Internetseite des International Office der Universität Ulm veröffentlicht werden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Der Bericht sollte maximal 3 DIN A 4 Seiten lang sein (Deckblatt nicht mitgezählt).
Dem Bericht dürfen bis zu 4 Bilder (jpg-Format) beigelegt werden (letzte Seite)
Schrift: Arial 10 pt, Zeilenabstand: genau 14.

Machen Sie insbesondere Angaben zu:

- Vorbereitung (Planung, Organisation und Bewerbung an der Gasthochschule)
- Unterkunft
- Studium an der Gasthochschule
- Alltag und Freizeit
- Fazit (beste und schlechteste Erfahrung)

Bitte schicken Sie uns Ihren Bericht

- innerhalb eines Monats nach Studienende an der Gasthochschule
- im WORD-Format (keine PDF-Dateien oder andere Formate, da wir die Berichte vor der Veröffentlichung editieren)
- per eMail-Attachment an erasmus@uni-ulm.de

Stand: 26.06.2016 / Ha

The exchange semester in Norway was expensive but nice.

I'm studying Software Engineering with a specialization to IT-Security. So I was searching for Universities which are providing courses in this direction. First, I wanted to go to Asia, but apparently you have to apply for this over 1 year in advance. So if you are coming to Ulm for your master degree and want to learn one semester outside of Europe, you have to submit your application for a semester abroad before you even received the confirmation to be able to study in Uni Ulm. Therefore my only choice left, was the Erasmus Program.

Many Universities, listed on the website of the International Office, have hidden their catalog of courses somewhere on their website. It requires searching, but I was able to find them. There were several places which offered IT Security and Software Engineering master courses so submitted the application for 3 favorite universities. Luckily, both I and a friend of mine was nominated for our favorite choice, the NTNU in Norway.

After the nomination, we contacted Gunnar Bergseth (gunnar.bergseth@ntnu.no) who told us, the curriculum has changed and many of our selected courses aren't offered anymore. Another good person to contact is Tatiana Fedorova (tatiana.fedorova@ntnu.no) for Gjøvic. Furthermore we have to select carefully, because the NTNU has 3 locations and many IT Security courses are offered in Gjøvik. Therefore we can only select courses of one place. So with a bit more search, we found websites of their master programs, where we saw the actual courses which are thought in the autumn semester. And that's an **important note**, that NTNU has spring and autumn semesters and not summer and winter, like in Germany. This means, their study year starts in August and we needed to write our application early.

The learning agreement wasn't much of a problem. Both, the examination board from Ulm and NTNU were welcoming and we got it settled fast. Another **important note**, check which courses are graded (A-F). NTNU has many courses which have only Pass/Fail, which are not completely accepted by Uni Ulm. For example the Norwegian Language course (5 Credits) was only accepted as a 3 LP ASQ without grade. However, you can talk with them and I'm really glad, that I got an exception. I wanted to collaborate in a Software Project with other students in Norway, but this course has only Pass/Fail. So I asked both, the professor of this course and our examination committee if it's fine when the professor gives me a certificate with her estimation of my grade in A-F; and both agreed. Another **note**, you can only apply whole Credits. I took 7,5 Credit courses so I only got 7,0 LP out of them. The transition of the grades is A→1,0, B→2,0, etc...

Another advice to the courses. I cannot recommend "Digital Forensics". You have to do a 6 man group project with boring themes and little to no background. It seems Norwegians are not good at those tasks because me and another student did most of the work. Then, the (only one) practical week was kind of the only interesting part of this course, but it got nearly canceled because the tutor wasn't available. So luckily a lecturer took over, but he was terrible stammering. Listening to him during the 1h introduction each day was really hard. Don't get me wrong, he was nice, smart and you can talk to and ask him without much problem, however listening to a 1h stuttered talk is killing your concentration. Next, the course had extra readings with external persons, e.g. from the police which could have been interesting, but they are not allowed to talk too much about their cases and work, so it was most times just boring theoretical gibberish. The lecture about Digital Forensics can be summarized with make a copy and document every step. It was way too theoretical for such an interesting practical topic.

The Norwegian Language Course was nice, but very hard. You will do one chapter each week where you have to learn about 50-70 new words each week. It only lasts 10 weeks or so, but you can train your language at the weekly Norwegian coffee with other internationals and a tutor.

For the housing, we were given the option to live in a student village. Gjovic has 3 places, Kallerud which is only 5 min away and the two others about 30 min by foot away. You have to register yourself on the SIT website and apply for a location. I don't know if they have already fixed it, but we had problems because the website was "forgetting" our data. So if you have entered all your data, clicked "Next" and select your preferred housings, you ended up at the starting page logged out without your data submitted. I got a spot in Kallerud, which I can totally recommend. I lived with another student on a floor in a small house. We shared a big kitchen and bathroom together, and each had an appr. 18m² room for themselves. Note here, you are not provided with curtains and your room has a really big window on one side. This place was nice for me, because I could walk home for lunch, a cheap shop (Coop Extra) was only 10 min away and it cost "only" about 420€/month. In Sorbyen it's a bit cheaper and there are many international student parties, but it far off the city and university. Nordbyen is closer to the city but you need to walk up a hill to get to the university. Oh, and the student club (Huset) is at the uni where every night some kind of program is offered. It ranges from LAN Parties, Quiz and Bingo nights, to concerts and drinking parties.

The other bureaucratic steps were mostly straightforward. No Visum needed, but we needed to register at the police. Note here, select the correct registration form where you don't need to pay because your European. I selected the wrong one, but got my money refunded. The OLS language test was easy because you can google the answers. So I got rated as C2 and didn't needed to do a language course and the the test again at the end of the mobility. Another important note here. Make a copy of the checklist, provided by the International Office, or even scan it. It's worth its weight in gold. Just follow all steps on it and your fine.

Next on the list was the travel planning. We decided to drive with the car which I can recommend. We drove to Flensburg, slept there in a hostel, drove to Frederikshavn, took a ferry to Langesund and from there again with the car to Gjovic. It was pretty cheap (only about 150-200€ in total), and it was very practical to load the car with your more luggage than you would have taken by plane. However the departure was a bit hectic, because I had my last exam on Friday and we went off on Monday.

At the arrival our tutor met us and gave me the key to my apartment. Theoretically I was assigned to Sara, but I never met her in the semester, and Ahmed took over, which was lucky, because imho he was the best tutor in my life so far.

The start of the University was also very pleasant. There was an introduction week for international students and also new students to NTNU, where you learn most of the things you need. There was even a lecture "How to survive in Norway". Note here, you need Facebook because all events are organized in it. I created an account just for that (which I won't use anymore). If you want to meet Norwegians, go to the events in the first week and choose at least one activity. It's really hard to get into contact with them afterwards. When you are in such a circle, they are very nice and you can have good talks with them – otherwise they are kind of reserved. I was bouldering in a room in the cellar of the uni, and took part in a hiking trip to Rondane. This national park I can totally recommend, the view was amazing. I could fill a whole page about how stunning this trip was. If you have such a chance, do it!

The daily routine at the university is only a bit different from Ulm. The lectures can take up to 5 hours, but after about 1h there is always a short break. Note here. All lectures were recorded and I could watch/download them later. Because of this I could take some trips around Norway during the week and catch up with the subject. All professors were nice and you can talk with them about some problems. I can't remember of any case were I wasn't helped. (For personal problems SIT provides a counselor which I haven't utilized). Learning at the uni can be problematic, because they don't have much learning space and not many computers – you even have to book learning rooms. You need to make sure you are registered for the exams. Then you need to check online where and when you have to be and remember the number. The exams can also take up to 5h, but I only needed half of the time. The assistants have no clue about the topic, so when you have a question, the call the professor or help via mobile phone. I can't tell you how the food of the cafeteria is tasting, because it was to expensive for me. However they have free microwaves and free or cheap coffee.

My daily life was similar to Germany. I could withdraw cash from a cashing machine and could buy most of the stuff I wanted. Note here, in Norway you can get everything with a credit card, and some stuff only with it. Because I had none and preferred cash, I needed to get a bit creative, but got along. As a recommendation, get an online international credit card. There are some good offers where the exchange rates are very small. In the city you can get nearly everything in the CityCenter, but the cheap shops are Kwick, Rema1000 and Coop. There you find some products with similar prices like in Germany. But generally you can double the price of Germany. Because of these prices I cooked everything myself and didn't went out at night. 8€ for a beer in a restaurant was too much. Even for Norwegians the alcohol costs too much, so they do pre-parties ("vors") in an apartment, where they already get totally wasted and then go drunk to the parties. Not all of them of course, but it was a shock to see some drunk students urinating 2m next to the entry line for the Christmas party.

We international students got a good committee, which organized a cabin trip, a BBQ, a picnic, parties, and international nights, where each of us students could present their country. I really liked those events and can recommend you try to bring it up yourself.

I also made some trips myself. Important note, do as many trips you can, when you arrive in summer, because nearly all tourist attractions are closed during autumn and winter. I missed some because of that, so I will visit Norway again during summer some time. I visited some cities, went to some national parks, took a Husky, Rendeer Sledding and whale watching tour, slept in an Ice Hotel in Sweden, watched sadly only a weak Aurora Borealis, etc... To summarize, all of this was an experience I wouldn't want to miss, though most of the trips were expensive. Note here, if you book train tickets online in advance you can get an up to 70% cut. The website RomeToRio and VisitingNorway helped me a lot with the planning.

Conclusion: This semester was a very nice experience, I wish everyone to have for themselves. It burned a big hole in my savings, but for me, it was worth every Cent. The nature there is just so amazing, you want to see it again. Furthermore I have made some international friends which I want to keep contact to. I think only one semester was not enough, and in retrospective I should have taken a whole year.



Zusätzliche Seite für max. 4 Photos (jpg-Format)



Rondane



Tromso



Lillehammer



Trondheim