

ERASMUS-ERFAHRUNGSBERICHT / ERASMUS EXPERIENCE REPORT

Gastland / Host country Norway
ERASMUS-Code der Gasthochschule / ERASMUS code of the host university Bergen 02
Name der Gasthochschule / Name of the host University Norwegian School of Economics (NHH)
Name des/der Kieler ERASMUS-Programmbeauftragten Prof. Raff / Institute of Economics
Vorbereitung / Preparation Preparation by the international center at CAU
Anreise, Ankunft, erste Anlaufstellen / Travel, Arrival, first contact Flight from Hamburg to Bergen, I arrived in Bergen on the 09.08.2018. My first contact with any official office was during the orientation week at NHH which began on the 13 th August.
Betreuung und Aufnahme / Reception Reception by the International center at NHH and the administration of NHH during the welcome week. The International office at NHH was great, they were very active on facebook where they had founded a group for all incoming students and there they posted updates and necessary information.
Unterbringung / Accommodation I was living in the student dorm "Hatleberg" which was located directly across from NHH. The accommodation for international master students at NHH was guaranteed. Therefore it was really easy to get a room through SAMMEN the student organization. I got information from NHH on when and how to apply for housing through SAMMEN such that everything was very well organized.
Studium und Universität (Kurse, Besonderheiten, Bewertung des Studienangebots, Vergleich mit Studium in Kiel etc.) / Studies and University The Norwegian school of Economics, in Norwegian it's called Norges Handelshøyskole, it THE business university in Norway. For Norwegians it is quite hard to get into the school and I did not meet a Norwegian who attended this school and was not ambitious. Every course at NHH is worth 7,5 credits and the normal semester load is four courses. Every class is held twice a week and there are no additional tutorials. Sometimes the classes were used to discuss the assignments as well. Almost all my exams were computer exams and lasted between three to four hours. The campus at NHH is located 10 minutes from the city center by bus. Next to the campus one of the SAMMEN training centers, Lehmkuhlhallen. From campus you can see all the way over the Bergen bay and

to the city. NHH also has a big cafeteria where you can eat breakfast, lunch and an early dinner. If you want to join on of the many clubs of the university it is beneficial if you speak Norwegian but there are also a few that accept internationals. The whole basement of NHH is dedicated to student groups and also has a club where parties are being held regularly.

I took seven courses in total. Norwegian, Petroleum Economics, Macroeconomic Theory and Policy, Supply Chain Management, Environmental Economics, Energy and Resource Industries and Shipping Economics. Every course required some assignments during the semester to become eligible to take the exam. This is a big difference in comparison to the CAU.

Of the seven courses that I attended, I got four recognized in my learning agreement. Those were Petroleum Economics, Macroeconomics, Supply Chain and Environmental Economics. Of those I only dropped Macroeconomics because for me personally the course was not well organized and it was difficult to follow the course if you did not attend class.

Petroleum Economics was a very interesting course which included the history of the oil and gas industry, supply and demand side economics, and implications for resource rich countries. In this course three out of four assignments had to be completed to obtain course approval. The assignments were strongly focused on calculations and interpretation of formulars, while the final exam was mostly explaining concepts and historic developments. I think the professor is leaving NHH soon, so I am not sure if the course will be offered in the next semesters.

Supply Chain Management was a great course that required the students to work intensively with Excel for the three assignments. In this course the assignments were very extensive and could be done in groups of up to five students. The timeframe was a week, which was needed to complete the assignments well, since every assignment counted with 10% towards the final grade. The assignments as well as the final exam were very fair.

Environmental Economics was given by a Norwegian professor who had conducted surveys on air quality all over the world so his class was super interesting and always featured good examples. If you like some discussions and interaction between students and professor than I would definitely recommend you to take this class. We had to complete two assignments to obtain course approval and for the first one we were slightly confused because we felt like the directions were not very clear, but that is just the professors style. With the assignment he also posted the grading criteria and if you followed those guidelines and answered the questions the assignments as well as the final exam were very doable. The final exam was a term paper for which we had two weeks and which had to be at most 5 pages long and it was due before my other exams so that was very good.

This course was content wise similar to the Environmental Economics course offered at the CAU but vastly different in terms of understanding and consequently grading. The NHH Environmental Economics required you to really understand the content of the class and apply the concepts of the class to case studies, while the CAU course was very focused on calculations.

The other two classes that I took I took because I found the topics interesting and wanted to learn something about them. Energy and Resource Industries was a great course. It was not a typical lecture class but actually consisted of only guest lectures and one introductory and one final lecture from the professor. I would recommend this course to everyone taking the Environmental and Resource Economics Master since it offers an insight into many different companies, from Fishpool to Equinor or Lerøy Seafood. Here the final exam was a take home exam where we got the questions at 9 am in the morning and had to hand it in before 5 pm. Prior to the exam we also had to complete an assignment which was similar to the exam in order to get course approval.

Shipping Economics was also a very interesting course and from the course structure and level of difficulty quite similar to courses that you can take at the CAU. Sadly the professor who gave the class retired after this semester so she won't be giving this course again.

Sprachkurse / language courses

NHH offers a Norwegian language course for foreigners which I took and really enjoyed. It is also worth 7,5 ECTS but is only graded on a pass or fail basis. There were two compulsory homework assignments, an online test, a written exam in class and a final oral examination. That might sound like a lot, but it was alright. The teachers Klara and Karin were both really nice and attendance to class was not compulsory.

Freizeit / leisure

I decided to go to Norway because I did not want to spend an entire semester partying but instead enjoying the unique nature that Norway has to offer. Of course you can also party every weekend and during the week but alcohol is so expensive, that you might spend your entire monthly budget if you do so. I had a great time hiking in the mountains surrounding Bergen and going by train, bus or car to beautiful destinations in western Norway. If you love hiking, kayaking or skiing you should look up BSI friluft. This is a student organization that organizes outdoor activities from students for students. I joined the group for one semester

for a fee of 15€ and then when on a couple trips with them including an amazing wild water kayaking trip and was able to rent equipment there as well. The cost for the trips depend on whether accommodations or rental equipment are necessary, but I would say that they are very reasonable priced.

If you are interested in going to the Instagram/ tourist hotspots like Preikestolen or Trolltunga, be aware that you should have traveled there by the 15th September because after this date it is advised/ necessary to take a guide due winter conditions.

I also joined the gym. They have a special offer for students so its like 110€ for one semester. They offer yoga, tabata, spinning, Zumba,... courses as well as squash, a weight room and a sauna.

Kosten / costs

As expected Norway was quite expensive. When going shopping for groceries it is always a good idea to buy the items on sale and to compare prices between the supermarkets. Get the app "Matttilbud" which is basically Food for sale, it shows you the items on sale in all the major supermarkets. Processes foods like Pizza are super expensive, while frozen berries and fresh mushrooms are really affordable.

My dorm room cost around 450-470€ dependent on the exchange rate. But I had a single room with my own bathroom and a share kitchen. If you go for the shared room (two people) then you spend considerably less.

Links, hilfreiche Informationsquellen / links, useful references

nhh.no – website of NHH

ut.no – Outdoor app

yr.no – weather website (you can't trust your usual app)

canvas – student app, that contains all your courses, great for organization

matttilbud – app that shows you where which food item is on sale

bsifriluft.no – also on facebook, the outdoor organization

skysst – app for the public transport in Bergen

Fazit / conclusion

I had a wonderful time in Norway and at NHH. I would not recommend taking more than four courses though. And use the time to travel and get to know Norway. And be prepared for rain! ;)