

## Erfahrungsbericht Auslandssemester

Bitte nennen Sie im Erfahrungsbericht keine personenbezogenen Daten (Name, E-Mail-Adresse usw.). Am Ende des Berichts können gern Fotos (mit Beschreibung) eingefügt werden.

Ich bin mit der Veröffentlichung des Berichts und der eingefügten Fotos einverstanden:

Ja     Nein

<b>Studiengang an der EUF</b>
European Cultures and Society
<b>Fächerkombination (falls BABW)</b>
/
<b>Gastland</b>
Griechenland
<b>Gasthochschule</b>
Panteion Panepistimio Kinonikon Kai Politikon Epistimon
<b>Semester im Ausland (z.B. WiSe 2016/17)</b>
HeSe 2022/23 & FrSe 2023
<b>Dauer des Auslandssemesters (Vorlesungen und Prüfungen)</b>
2 Semester
<b>Vorbereitung</b>
I took a Greek course in the semester before my semester abroad and when I arrived in Athens, I took an intensive language course at the Lamda Institute through the PROMOS international language course scholarship (very cool opportunity, I absolutely recommend applying!). I also found out which parts of town are good for living in (not Omonoia or Victoria, but definitely Exarcheia, Koukaki, Kolonaki, Pangrati - depending on whether you want to live close to the university or in the study district). It's best to book a room in a shared flat beforehand. I had good experiences there, but friends of mine also had bad ones (e.g. via housing anywhere). I got a room through stayinathens and was lucky to have good flatmates. Checking out the courses at the university is definitely good, but also expect a lot of changes when you arrive.
<b>Tips zur umweltfreundlichen An-/Abreise</b>
Train transport to Greece is complicated to find and I unfortunately had to fly in the end due to time constraints. There are good bus connections to Athens via the Balkan countries, but you should definitely have time to travel one to two weeks if you want to travel in a relaxed way.
<b>Wie haben Sie gewohnt und wie sind Sie an Ihre Unterkunft gekommen (selbst gesucht/von Gasthochschule organisiert, Wohnheim/privat etc.)?</b>
I found my accommodation via stayinathens.com and was satisfied. Some people were unlucky, I also moved again for my second semester to live in a quieter neighbourhood. It's

best to look for apartments and rooms on facebook because Greek people use it a lot.

**Haben Sie Angebote für Incomings genutzt? Wie haben Sie sich anderweitig sozial vernetzt?**

I got a card from ELA (Erasmus Life Athens), which wasn't worth it in the end because their offers weren't for me. I also had an ESN (Erasmus Student Network, only from and for Panteion University) card, which is worth it if you feel like going on trips with the university. ESN also organises buddies (unfortunately quite late, by then I had already found my way around on my own) and a Welcome Week, one week before the start of the university, which is great for getting to know all the other Erasmus students. ESN is also very helpful if you have any problems or questions. You can get information mainly via Facebook and Instagram. The incoming coordinator at the university is also very committed, gets back to you quickly and is helpful, which is really worth its weight in gold during the semester abroad. You can also extend your semester abroad at relatively short notice if you want to (this was the best decision for me).

**Waren Sie zufrieden mit der Gastuniversität (Räumlichkeiten, Ansprechpartner\*innen, etc.) und dem Kursangebot (Workload etc.)?**

I was very satisfied with my time at university in Athens. There were some courses in English, but you could also choose Greek courses and then read up on material yourself and then, for example, give a presentation, write an essay or an exam. Some lecturers were very impressive, others not so convincing, as is the case at any university. In terms of workload, it was just right and rather less than at EUF.

**Wie sah Ihr Alltag vor Ort aus? (Freizeit, Einkaufen, Fortbewegung, Inklusion, ...)**

Shopping is more expensive than in Germany in the supermarkets, but very affordable at the weekly markets, which are really nice, especially the one in Exarcheia. There are many hills in the city where you can watch the sunset and spend time with friends. Cycling is almost impossible, but the metro is effective and reliable, whether the buses are reliable is a surprise every time. If you live in the central districts, a supermarket or kiosk (periptero in Greek) is never far away. You can also get to one of the nearby islands around Athens very quickly.

**Fazit: Würden Sie ein Auslandssemester an Ihrer Gastuniversität empfehlen? Aus welchen Gründen?**

I would definitely recommend Athens and the Panteion University! If you are looking for sun and culture and courses that deal with topics not represented at EUF, this is the place to go! However, you generally need to be open to all experiences in order to enjoy your time, regardless of where you go abroad. It is best not to have any expectations, then you will be happy about everything that comes.

**Welche Tipps haben Sie für einen umweltfreundlichen/nachhaltigen Aufenthalt (Projekte, Initiativen, Alltagsleben)?**

Go to the weekly markets and get involved in NGOs. Unfortunately, there is no waste separation, no deposit either, you have to get creative yourself.

The best experience for me was meeting so many lovely people and exploring a new country. Athens and Greece offer so many different things: islands and beaches,

mountains and hiking, people from all countries, culture and engagement. The worst experience was arguing with landlords and stepping in a sea urchin.

**Wie sind Sie finanziell ausgekommen? Wie hoch waren Ihre Ausgaben für Visum (falls zutreffend), Reise, Unterkunft (pro Monat), Lebenshaltung, Freizeit, weitere Kosten (z.B. Bücher)?**

My shared room cost 350€ in the first semester and 375€ in the second semester (I moved once). Actually, the price is way too high, but if you don't speak Greek, you don't really have any other option than to take such a flat offer. In itself, a rent between €250 and €350 is definitely in the cards. If you buy food at the markets, it's cheaper than in Germany, but not at the supermarkets. But eating out is very affordable and there are an incredible number of free or very affordable cultural activities.

**Haben Sie die Landessprache gelernt bzw. wie wichtig war diese Ihrer Ansicht nach für Ihren Aufenthalt?**

I learnt Greek and was very happy that I did. Being able to read the letters at least helps a lot, and in general, you're more likely to strike up a conversation and get to know Greek students if you speak a little Greek. Panteion University also offers a language course through another university, which I also took advantage of during my first semester abroad. I learned a lot (6-hour course per week), but it's a long way to get to the university where the courses are taught. On the other hand, you bond as a group with those from the university who are also taking the course.

**Welche interkulturellen Begegnungen/Kompetenzen haben Ihren Aufenthalt geprägt?**

There are some cool NGOs in Athens that are always happy to have volunteers and are a perfect opportunity to meet many people (not only from Greece and Europe), for example Khora and Yoga and Sports for Refugees. I shared a flat with 9 people from Turkey, France, Greece, Germany and the Netherlands, which was great.

**Welche Perspektiven auf Ihr Gastland/Herkunftsland haben sich verändert - und warum?**

I got a new perspective on Greece because I had never been there before and only knew the news about the economic crisis. I was very impressed by how politically engaged not only the students but Greeks in general are. Also, Greek cuisine offers much more vegan and vegetarian food than you think and Greek cuisine is not what you get in Greek restaurants in Germany. In general, the Greeks I met were very open and warm and I quickly made friends.

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