

Field report semester abroad

Please do not mention any personal data (name, e-mail address, etc.) in the field report.
Photos (with description) can be inserted at the end of the report.

I agree with the publication of the report and the inserted photos:

Yes No

Study programme at the EUF
European Cultures and Society
Combination of subjects (for Educational Students)
Country
Poland
Partner university
Uniwersytet Wroclawski
Semester abroad (e.g. fall semester 2016/17)
Fall semester 2019/2020
Duration of the semester abroad (lectures and examinations)
4 month
Preparation
I started searching for a room in september. I used a facebook group (WROCLAW NA WYNAJEM - mieszkania, pokoje.) and needed two weeks to find a room that fitted my expectations. Then, I bought the ticket for flixbus. There is a direct bus connection from Hamburg. It takes about 9h to get to Wroclaw.
Studies at the partner university (e.g. period of lectures, language of instruction, courses offered, type of examination)
The orientation week started in the beginning of October. On the first day we got the student number that allows to log in to the online portal of the university (usos) and some usefull tips concerning university structure, student groups and leisure activities.

During the week meetings with the coordinators of the Faculties were organized. On those meetings the coordinators gave students access to the schedules of the courses in English. Also, in the building of the Faculty we got the student ID (first you need to transfer the money and have a confirmation with you). The student Id is important for the public transport use, you can get a semester ticket with it.

The courses that were offered differed a lot from the courses I've chosen in the spring. I went to five different Faculty meetings and choose courses from another fields. Also, I found the willy-brandt-center online, this german institute offers interesting courses in english and german. Some of the students decided to stay only at the WB center- the quality of the lectures was really good. Generally, the courses offered more of a transitional perspective and an eastern view of the processes in contemporary Europe. For almost all courses we got interesting literature.

In almost all courses we had to do a short presentation and a final essay. In some seminars you have to be present and take an active part in the discussion- (activity 10%-50% of some grades). In other seminars you have to take a part in cultural events in the city and than make a few reports from it. The semester ended on the 4th of February.

Life in the host country (e.g. living, shopping, leisure, costs)

Wroclaw is one of the biggest student cities in Poland therefore almost everywhere people speak english. There are many restaurants and cafes on every corner. In the city center there are "milk-bars (bar mleczny)" that offer cheap food in the lunch time. You pay approximately 3-5€ for a dish and it is close to universities.

There are a lot of small grocery shops as well as food markets such as biedronka, aldi or lidl. For a bigger shopping people go to malls. There are a lot of big malls in the city center. People travel either with a tram or a bus. There is a helpful app (jakdojade.pl) that shows you what means of transportation you need to use to get to your destination.

Many activities are offered by the university. There are also organizations such as "barbara" that manage the cultural living in the city. They offer a lot of courses and interesting events you could join. There are also a lot of museums, theaters and concerts.

I highly recommend the cinema "new horizons". It is an interesting space with a unusual movie offer. If you are interested in the movie culture you can take some courses in the cinema since it is cooperating with the university of Wroclaw.

There is no university gym but there are lots of not that expensive modern, private gyms and you will get a discount with your student card.

Practical tips/conclusion

Wroclaw is a beautiful City that is near to other cultural capitals of poland and Europe. You have to plan a trip to Krakow, Warsaw, Berlin or Prague. Polish mountains are also worth visiting. A beautiful small mountain village, Karpacz, is only 2h away from Wroclaw and you can go there to hike.

I would recommend staying in the student housing since it is easier to make friends and there is a lot going on the whole time. You can pay everywhere with a card but it will be cheaper if you will take the money with you and exchange it in the currency exchange office.

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