

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

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| Study programme at the EUF |
| European Cultures and Society |
| Combination of subjects (for Educational Students) |
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| Country |
| Cyprus |
| Partner university |
| University of Nicosia |
| Semester abroad (e.g. fall semester 2016/17) |
| Fall 2019 |
| Duration of the semester abroad (lectures and examinations) |
| September 2019-January 2020 |
| Preparation |
| <p>I was one of the first people to study at this University, so there wasn't any person to let me know how things would be. That's okay, as it is a new connection.</p> <p>Since I am a Non-EU citizen, there was a lot of preparation for my entry visa (Cyprus is not part of Schengen). I had to get blood tests, a chest x-ray, and a criminal record apostilled. I also had to get a copy of my passport from my home country embassy and from the Cypriot consulate. None of these things were particularly cheap, but all doable tasks. EU citizens will have a fairly easy time in comparison.</p> |

I found a place to live on Erasmusu.com , which is probably the best place to get affordable accomadation online. I would advise future students to not go with the Erasmus Society flats, as they are for-profit and overpriced.

Studies at the partner university (e.g. period of lectures, language of instruction, courses offered, type of examination)

For EUCS students, the University of Nicosia has a great course selection. There are lots of relevant classes in English, especially if one is interested in international relations.

Attendence is mandatory, and there are typically two meetings for the class per week, an hour and half each.

Some classes have mid-terms, others don't. A few classes require presentations (typically if they don't have mid-terms). All classes have essays, and they are due before Christmas, which is a bit of a new time-management challenge after having a good amount of time to do essays in Flensburg. The finals are in Janaury, and are written exams. Except for one, I found the exams to be easy, though having to do the essays during the semester was not.

The level of difficulty varies with the teachers and subjects. After studying EUCS, European Cultures was quite easy. Since the subjects for the most part were international relations focused, I can say that I really learned a lot, especially about the Cyprus problem in Cyprus and the EU.

It should be noted that the University of Nicosia has excellent access to online materials/journals, and that continues even outside of the universeity with OpenAthens.

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

Cyprus is a bit more expensive than Flensburg, as it is on an island. For accommodation, you should not pay more than 400 EUR total for your room. I recommend living in the city center or close to it – not near the university, where there is not much going on.

For groceries, if you cook with German-food sort of ingredients (dairy products, basically) expect it to be more expensive. It isn't that expensive if you get local ingredients, and there is also a decent selection of british ingredients thanks to colonialism. Prices also vary according to the grocery store – AlphaOmega is the equivalent of Rewe in Germany, though it will have everything that you need.

In Nicosia, it is very affordable to go out to eat. For 3-3.5 EUR you can get a decent lunch in the city center. Even for dinner, you can find reasonable prices as well. A Meze spread is typically around 15 EUR, but it is something that you must have at least once. While Cypriots do love meat, it is possible to go out to eat a lot and be a vegetarian. There is plenty of Halloumi and falafel.

The dining hall at the University of Nicosia has good food, however, after Flensburg prices at the Mensa seems unreasonable. It is easy to get sandwiches or something at the bakeries (Zorbas, Pandora) at a good price for lunch.

Transportation is nothing like Germany, sadly. The Deutsche Bahn is a dream in comparison. The busses are not very reliable. You can count on the busses to not be on time, though they update pretty accurate on the "Cyprus Bus" app. If you live around the city center, there are fairly reliable connections to the University of Nicosia, but a lot of other places don't have as good of connections. I recommend getting a bike. I got mine for 120 EUR all inclusive of lights, helmet, etc, and it was a very nice bike. Biking in Nicosia is a rather scary experience at first, but you get used to it, and it doesn't take to long to get to places.

For travel outside of Nicosia, you can either take a bus or rent a car. There are busses to most places until 19:00-21:00 on the Greek side.

On the north side, the busses run until around 19:00. Those busses don't have a schedule or an app. The one good thing about Cypriot busses is that they are affordable, and you can get half off on the Greek Cypriot side with your student ID.

For crossing the buffer zone, it is quite easy. The Turkish side has some of the nicer destinations, as they have the two cities which were the tourist destinations before the invasion.

If you are over 25 or have a friend who is over 25 and has a driver's license, it is possible to rent a car, which is more convenient. If you make local friends, they might be willing to take you places with car.

Cyprus is a very beautiful country, and has incredible beaches, so you will want to travel around a decent bit. The must see places are: Kyrenia, Famagusta, Karpaz (the peninsula), Cavo Greko, and the Troodos Mountains. If you want to travel to nearby places, Cyprus is also good for that. There are very good flight connections to Lebanon, Israel, Georgia, Turkey, and Jordan.

There is a very good café culture in Nicosia. I recommend the Weaving Mill, or the Working Place, which is the nicest study café around. There are plenty of other nice cafes around Nicosia.

For nightlife, you can find what you are looking for. If you are into hipster bars/cafes, there are very good options on both sides. For those looking for lots of parties/clubbing, they can find that as well with the Erasmus Society. The Erasmus Student Network has more options for weeknight activities that are a more diverse (game night, movie night, etc.) Costs are really dependent on where you choose to out.

There are lots of interesting lectures and cultural events. The Home for Cooperation, which is located in the buffer zone, hosts a lot of these. The University of Nicosia hosts some of these events as well. They have a version of Model UN at the uni as well: for those interested in International Relations, there is an International Relations and European Affairs Society, which organizes those sort of things.

Cyprus is one of the safest places to study. For women, there is more catcalling than in Germany, though they never do anything more than that.

Nicosia is what you make of it. It is the last divided European capital, and there is a unique combination of bombed buildings, nicer places, and graffiti in the city center. The split of the city is very sad, but it makes for an interesting situation with two cultures on the same country/city. It isn't gentrified and there are many cool places and people if you make the time to get to know them.

Practical tips/conclusion

Nicosia and Cyprus are very interesting from an a sociological and International Relations standpoint. That being said, you should have some knowledge and understanding of the Cyprus problem, and approach sensitive issues delicately. There are nationalist perspectives from both sides, so that is good to be aware of.

It is important to have both warm weather and cold weather clothes with you. Cyprus has a very warm summer, but it can get a bit chilly in the winter as well, and you will regret not bringing any sweaters. The buildings are much less insulated than in Germany, and when it is cold, it is a wet sort of cold. Make sure to have at least one warm jacket with you. It is, however, much less rainy and cloudy than Flensburg.

There are direct flight connections from Berlin and Köln. It is possible to fly from Hamburg to one of those destinations, though there is no direct flights from Copenhagen or Hamburg (I have done a lot of research). Other places with good connections are London, Vienna, and I believe Brussels.

If you do not like cats very much, I would not recommend coming here, as there are stray cats everywhere.

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