

Report: My ERASMUS experience in Rouen

For my Erasmus semester, I chose France, as French is my first foreign language and it holds a special place in my heart, as my husband is French as well.

To begin with, the preparation prior to my stay was simple and fast: the communication with Madame De Pradier (secretary at the Faculty of Law, University of Rouen) went extremely smoothly and I did not encounter any issue whatsoever with my application. However, one thing worth mentioning is that I did not get to choose the subjects I was to study in France, as they had already been selected by the French University for the Erasmus students. Nonetheless, this was not an issue, as the proposed subjects were very interesting and useful for an international law student.

Secondly, the application process was handled without any problem as well: I had to meet a certain deadline and to forward certain documents (e.g. my Transcript of Records from Leibniz University) to the University of Rouen: all the requirements were provided by Madame De Pradier and the website of the Rouen University. Furthermore, both Madame De Pradier and Frau Lüttgerding (from Leibniz University) were extremely patient and helpful throughout the application.

Then, in what the accommodation was concerned, I applied and I was given a private studio in the Students' Residence in a small city: Mont Saint Aignan, close to Rouen. A 20 minutes' drive by bus made it possible to make the commute on a daily basis. Furthermore, as most of the Erasmus students stayed there, going by bus together became a means to get to know my fellow colleagues.

By far the most interesting fact in regards to my semester spent abroad was attending the different courses: International Public and Privat Law, Protection of fundamental rights, Introduction to French Public and Privat Law. One other thing worth mentioning is that all the courses were in French: so you should definitely master the language if you want to spend your Erasmus semester in France. Other than that, both students and teachers were extremely helpful and friendly.

The off-campus life had quite a few entertaining options to offer: there are many pubs and restaurants in Rouen. Moreover, the Christmas market was very welcoming and the French food does not bear comparison to any other in Europe, if you ask me. However, prices are higher than in Hannover, so a piece

of advice for future students would be to prioritize your expenses in order to avoid difficult times: it is not at all hard, as you can eat at the Faculty Canteen and the food is very tasty. Furthermore, if you do manage to get a place in the Students' Residence, you can save enough money so that you get to really enjoy what Rouen has to offer: amazing surroundings and delicious traditional food.

In my leisure time, I personally chose, most of the time, to go out with some colleagues or to read books on different topics: I do not use French on a daily basis, therefore I was happy to be able to improve my level and talk in this wonderful language every single day. There are many parks and shopping centers where students and not only can go spend some quality time while reading or simply relaxing.

As a conclusion to the above, I would say that I loved my experience as an Erasmus in Rouen, France: the language, the landscape, the kind and friendly people as well as the challenging courses made it an experience worth living again, if I was given the chance. More than that, while studying there, I even went to a very nice vet, as my puppy from Hannover came visit me and she did not feel well: the doctor was, as expected, extremely well-prepared and friendly.

In what the bad experiences are concerned, there is none worth mentioning: as already stated, I would repeat the experience at any given moment: France is beautiful, welcoming and, if you are lucky enough, you might even end up making great friends, just as I did.

