



Exchange experience

AT LEIBNIZ UNIVERSITÄT HANNOVER

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1. PREPARING THE DEPARTURE

The preparation for the exchange semester in Hannover at Leibniz Universität Hannover started in spring. Firstly, the candidature was to be approved by the home University which is St. Petersburg Peter the Great Polytechnic University in my case. After being confirmed the application was to be sent to the University of destination. The invitation letters arrived shortly. Then the subjects were to be chosen and a program for studying designed. Afterwards the visa was applied for and the last thing to be done was to prepare for the departure.



2. UPON ARRIVAL

The arrival to Hannover took place on the 4th of October. At the same day, a dormitory was available (the place there was reserved back in spring since the invitation to Hannover was assured). Another type of accommodation available for students is rented flat or room, yet dormitory gives one a great experience of international environment since students from all over the world live together and learn the culture and language of each other, celebrate holidays like Christmas together and enjoy quite a comfortable way of living.

3. ORIENTATION DAYS

Upon arrival, several orientation meetings took place. All the information about registering in the administration of Hannover, opening bank account and getting health insurance (which is a legal obligation once you are a student in Germany) was kindly provided by the representatives of the International Office in Hannover. The staff of the

Office were always very responsive and helpful. The second point on the agenda was choosing courses (subjects) for further studying. The meetings on this issue were held by the faculty representatives (in my case by the Faculty of Economics and Management).

We had a chance to visit all the lectures before registering as a class and exam participant for each subject. Also, free courses of the Language center were offered. I took part in German language course and enjoyed it tremendously.

4. THE STUDYING PROCESS AND THE EXAMINATION

The lectures of all subjects were held in form of presentations. The case studies were also offered, guest speakers invited. The exercise classes were held for financial disciplines. All the professors were very competent, knowledgeable in their field and experienced. I have learned a lot and quite happy with quality of education I've experienced. The University has well equipped classrooms and a lot of places for working individually and in group. The TIB library is one of them. Here a student can enjoy a free access to scientific literature and it is also a comfortable place to study, with rows of tables for students. Yet before the exams it gets quite crowded there.

In February 2 weeks were allocated for exams. The format of exams is simple yet something one might be not used to. During one hour a student has to write an essay or a test. A lot of attention can be paid to the formal structure in case of essay. Although this is preliminary discussed. When the exams were over, a student was free to leave and wait for his or her transcript of record in home country.



5. LIVING IN HANNOVER

The city of Hannover is a nice place to live. One can enjoy all the comfort, good infrastructure and have cultural experience. The city is very clean and safe. It also has some beautiful landmarks like Rathaus and Maschsee. Several museums can help one to learn more about history and art. The cafes and bars can satisfy any taste.

The climate is much milder than in Russia and one can enjoy walking on sunny days till very late autumn. There are a lot of parks and green areas. The air is particularly clean because most people prefer bicycles or public transport. Special bicycle roads can be found in all parts of the city.

All the litter is to be sorted. One should throw away his or her paper and cans separately. The bottles from water can be returned to the shops where they belong to the assortment and some discount can be obtained (one time, in the amount of pfund adequate to the number of bottles returned). Here this is a common practice.



5. TRAVELLING

On weekends one can enjoy travelling. Lower Saxony has a lot of interesting places: Hamburg (although the city itself is on its own and doesn't belong to the Lower Saxony), Bremen, Braunschweig, Goslar, Cuxhaven are among the ones I've had a pleasure to visit. It also takes less than 4 hours to reach Berlin.

6. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I would like to say that this was a lifetime experience and I've brought a lot of great memories back home with me. I am very grateful for being given such an opportunity and all the support I received during my stay!

