

Erasmus+ Erfahrungsbericht

Persönliche Angaben			
Name:		Vorname:	
E-Mail-Adresse			
Gastland	Zypern		
Gasthochschule	European University Cyprus		
Aufenthalt	von:	15.September 2018	bis: 26.Januar 2019

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- ☐ ja
☐ nein
☐ anonym

Bericht (mind. 1 Seite):

When deciding to go abroad for one semester, there are some important decisions to make beforehand. Last year, when my time came and I had to decide where I wanted to spend my Erasmus semester, I had to ask myself some questions. Which climate would I prefer? Which culture would interest me most? Should I stick to an English-speaking country or rather go to a region where a different language was the main language? Which university could offer me the most benefits for my academic development, while still offering an interesting culture in addition. After considering the options which the TU Chemnitz gave me in terms of partner universities for my studies of British and American Studies, my choice was the European University of Cyprus. In September of 2018 I started my semester abroad at the University and I don't regret my choice to this day.

The European University of Cyprus is a private university in Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus, situated on the Greek half of the island. It is a smaller University than the TU Chemnitz. However, it offers a wide range of courses in different specialities, undergraduate as well as graduate courses. On my orientation day I met many Erasmus students from all over the world, many Polish students as well as students from France, Greece, Austria, some from Germany and many more. Over the next few weeks I would make friends with a few of those people which shaped my Erasmus Experience positively. I also met with my Erasmus-buddy, who, unfortunately, didn't attend the same University as me but a different one, so he couldn't really help me with questions I had. In the first 2 weeks of University we had the chance to add and drop courses we have chosen, after those two weeks I chose 5 different courses from different fields, including two literature courses, two Linguistic courses and one English language course. Most of those courses added to my academic knowledge, except from the English course, which didn't match my language abilities, but was the highest language level offered for Erasmus students. The Erasmus coordinators at my Uni were really helpful with problems we had. However, the

clocks tick a little bit different in the Mediterranean compared to administration in German Universities. It took a few days to get used to that. All my courses I was really happy with and we had really nice Professors. Regarding the courses, there are a few differences to lectures in Germany. First of all, attendance is mandatory, there is only a certain amount of lectures you are allowed to miss in each course and the students have to excuse themselves via email if they couldn't come. But the biggest struggle I personally had with the courses was the length of the courses, which was around 3 hours each course compared to 1 ½ hours in Germany. We had a slightly longer break in the middle, but it still took some time to get used to that. After that, I will probably never complain again about the length of lectures in Germany.

Furthermore, I was able to experience multiple locations around the island throughout the semester, starting in September when the climate was still really hot up until the weeks before my departure when most days it was still possible to wear short-sleeved t-shirts. I enjoyed the weather very much, although this past winter had the most rain days in the last few years in Cyprus. Me and my friends explored the Greek side of the island many times by bus, we went to a few different harbour cities, we went to the beach many times and enjoyed the great weather. Going hiking was also on the agenda. We visited cities on the Greek side of the island as well as on the Turkish side, and it is interesting to observe differences between the two. Besides the different languages, different public transport system and the mentality of people living there, the whole atmosphere changes when you walk over the border. The border is something we had to encounter every time we visited the Turkish side, because the police checks ID's once on the Greek side of the green line and once again on the Turkish side.

There are so many things which made my Erasmus experience in Cyprus into a once in a lifetime adventure. My semester abroad in the Mediterranean was an important experience. I met friends and companions for life who I was able to share my most special memories from this with. I am glad I chose Cyprus and even the European University of Cyprus was a good institution for me to study for a while.