

Evaluation of study abroad

This evaluation will give the University of Aalborg important information in regards to your study in a foreign country. The evaluation will be used to help future students who wish to try studying abroad.

International Office

1. Personal data

Name: ___ Louise

AAU-mail: _____ llni12@student.aau.dk _____

Study programme at AAU and semester of travel: _____ 9. Semester, Tourism _____

2. Study abroad

Which university did you study at (and in which country): ___ Leibniz University, Germany ___

Starting date: ___ 05.10.16 ___ End date (including exam): _____ Incomplete _____

Did you find the length of the study:
too short too long perfect X

Please elaborate: I spent 10 months in Hannover, 1 at uni and due to my personal situation, I was ready to leave around Christmas time. There was nothing more for me in the city, except work.

What was your main motivation for studying abroad?
Because I thrive, when living abroad and it's the way I prefer to live: among other cultures and different languages, getting to know new people. In Hannover, I already had friends and the city was great in many ways: in the center of the country, quite international and still close to Denmark. Plus, the university is popular.

Please describe the courses you studied as well as evaluate them:

I ended up with International Human Resource Management (IHRM), Social and Cultural Geography (SCG), Cultural Anthropology (CA) and Communication the English Way (CEW). The only course that really caught my interest was SCG. The teacher was very passionate about the subject and touched upon a broad number of themes, including human nature and ecology. I would not recommend IHRM to any master student, as I found it very basic and that several of the students spoke better English than the teacher.

3. Information and support

Who was your contact-person at the university? ___Anne Hoch___

How were you received as a foreign student? Poorly. Orientation was not until October and by then, the German students had already started enrolling into courses, which made in complicated for us internationals to secure a place in our desired courses. Since I had already lived in Hannover for 6 months by then, I also knew all the “practical info” about getting settled. But for newcomers, it was thorough and organized.

Did they arrange any of these upon your arrival?

a welcome meeting an information meeting X nothing

Please elaborate: _____ See above _____

Were there any other special events for foreign students at the university during your stay, and

if yes, which?

Yes, there were several opportunities to meet other internationals and get some “German experiences”, but I had no interest in those, since I already had a network in the city. But there are lots of online groups on Facebook for international students in Hannover – those I will also recommend. They arrange events every month and language sessions.

How would you describe your social gains from these events?

I found it great that there was so much available. There are a lot of options for those seeking new friends.

How well and to what extent did you integrate with your fellow students at the university?

Not at all.

4. Accommodation

How were the practical arrangements managed (accommodation etc.)?

I took care of that myself.

6. Language preparations and gains

What language(s) were used for teaching at the university?

English and German

Did you receive any additional language lessons?

yes no

If yes, for how many weeks did the lessons last?

How many hours a week?

Monday to Friday: 2,5 hours pr. Day for 8 weeks. It was at a private language school, which I organized myself, as I needed the highest level.

Please give a brief evaluation of how your linguistic skills benefitted from your study abroad:

Together with the enhancement of my professional skills and CV, my language skills were definitely the greatest achievement. If you seek out ways to improve, you will for sure find it in Hannover.

7. Economy

How did you finance your stay?

SU X family X savings X loans grants

Other (what?): working

Total expenses per month (DKK): 5000

Break down of your economy (DKK):

Travel: 250

Rent (per month): 4200

Living expenses (food, laundry, etc.) (per month): 550

Insurance: 0

Transport (per month): See travel

Books: 0

Total: 5000

Other expenses: _____

How much more did you spend each month abroad compared to your expenses if you had stayed at Aalborg University? (DKK per month): I could have saved 1500 kr. by staying home.

Are there any grants you would recommend other students to apply for?

AAU Grant

8. Personal gains and evaluation of study abroad

Please consider the value of your study abroad from an academic point of view?

Given that I didn't complete it, I cannot give any constructive answer to this question.

Please consider the value of your study abroad from a personal point of view?

I learned a lot about myself, during my stay in Hannover. Personal boundaries, work-wise, stress limits... I am glad that I went, but there were also so many struggles that I would have wished could have been avoided. I met people in Hannover that have changed my life, but financially, it was also very tough sometimes.

Please give a short evaluation of the benefits of studying abroad from a social point of view:

Meeting new people. 100 %. Not only do you learn about other cultures, traditions – but also about yourself.

Did you experience any serious issues or problems during your studies?

If yes, how did you solve them or how were you helped in solving them?

I asked for help from my family. A lot. The communication with the university in Hannover was not ideal. But what can you do? That is the system.

Are there any things about the study abroad that you especially appreciate??

My work at the Tourist Information. It was a great personal achievement and I had the best colleagues.

Please make a short, overall evaluation of your study abroad:

Hannover was a tough, but great stay. People are friendly and there are so many things to do in this beautiful, green city. I loved my job, my friends and the freedom of the first many months there in the summer. Then uni came and nothing went, as planned. Personal issues topped the continuing stress and I decided that this was not going to be my 9th semester. It did not make sense for my study at all, since I couldn't follow my desired courses. There are many programs to study at Leibniz, but you can just tell that it is a place, where scientists and engineers thrive. What I took from my stay in Hannover is much more on the personal aspect, than the academical.

Would you like to be contact person for students who may be interested in studying at the same university?

Sure

9. Date and signature

Date: 25.01.17