

MY IMPRESIONS ON ERASMUS EXPERIENCE AT TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF BERLIN

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First of all, I would say that the application process and all the paper works are extremely stressful and laborious. However after this period I can guarantee that you will experience the best time of your life.

Before the decision of going TU Berlin, you must hold A2 German language certificate otherwise you can't apply. Additionally, I would recommend you to attend German Language course in early semester which is provided by ZEMS (TU Berlin language department). After the decision the paper works period will commence. In this period, you should be in contact all the time with both Erasmus Offices. In TU Berlin Erasmus Office only works in Tuesdays and Thursdays and they are always reply on emails. You should carefully read the instructions to avoid any issues, especially in the course electing. TU Berlin Erasmus Office will send you several emails with information about this process. I would strongly suggest that try to choose courses which includes laboratory or practice. In order to that you have to investigate the contents of courses in detail. If you are not available to choose these courses, you can contact with the lecturers via email and ask permission for attendance of the experiments without selecting these courses. This is important because you can practiced numerous experiments in TU Berlin Marine Laboratories such as Cavitation, Towing Tank etc. Moreover Visa is another thing you need to be careful. You should apply for visa as soon as possible after you got the "Letter of Acceptance" from TU Berlin. After you finished all of the paper works, you will arrive to the Berlin and now you have time to relax.

In the first week you should approve your AT11 (Health insurance document) in AOK centers. There is numerous AOK centers in Berlin and Erasmus Office will show you the locations of them in the orientation. Therefore it will be better to attend the orientation session. Besides, you should make "Anmeldung"(Residence Permit Registration), after you arrive in Berlin. You should make an appointment from Anmeldungs offices before 1-2 months, because it is almost impossible to find any available appointment for one week later. If you cannot find any, you can go to the offices early in the morning and ask for it kindly. Then you should open a bank account. Afterwards, you should approve your Learning Agreement and other documents from TU Berlin Erasmus Office and send them back your home university. After complete all of these procedures, you can enjoy your time in Berlin.

About the financial situation, you have to give app. 260 Euros for University before two semesters, these payment includes university fees, semester ticket. Addition to that you have to pay your first rent and deposit to the dormitory more or less 500 Euro. If you want to attend to language course before semester starts, you have to pay around 250 Euro. In most cases, dormitories in Germany aren't provide kitchen tools and bedding, you can buy them from IKEA for 70-80 Euros. You have to be aware of that you won't get your scholarship in first two

months therefore you should have cost of living for two months. For instance I went there with 2000 Euros without language course because I miss the application time.

Berlin Technical University provides several opportunities to Erasmus students. For instance; semester ticket for transportation inside Berlin during one semester, numerous sport courses such as Kick-Box, Aikido, Sailing etc., dormitory, which is located too close to TU Berlin main campus, for almost all students (in such cases some students couldn't get any room but there is lots of accommodation opportunities in Berlin) etc. Additionally, Berlin has widespread transportation network, several apps are available show all of the bus and subways (VBB). Almost every week different events are took place in TU Berlin. In terms of nightlife and entertainment, Berlin is the best city in Europa with different nightclubs and amusements. Besides, Berlin incorporates many attractions, for example the history of the city especially during and after the WWII, its nature (parks, rivers, lakes, woods) and according to me the most impressive attraction of Berlin is the life style of society (Hipster). Berlin contains different kinds of culture (Turkish, Arabic, Italian, Chinese...) because of that you won't be homesick. You can find almost all of the Turkish products in Berlin as well. There are lots of Turkish markets, döner places, even bazaar in all around the city.

To sum up, you will suffer in the beginning, but after that you will have a great time in Erasmus. I strongly recommend you to do your Erasmus in TU Berlin. After one year you will realize that you spend your best time in your life and you won't regret it.

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