Report of Exchange Study
Jian Song

Heldigvis, jeg gikk på utveksling ved Universitetet i Oslo.

(Fortunately, I went to University of Oslo as an exchange student.)

My name is Jian Song, a master student at Institute for Legal Informatics. Because University of Oslo and Leibniz University have double master degree program, I have a chance to study at University of Oslo for one semester (January-June, 2019).

I. Preparations before exchange

1. House
Before going to Norway, students can apply for a student dormitory. The Student Welfare Organisation of Oslo and Akershus (SiO) provides many dormitories in many different student villages in Oslo. SiO also provides many services for students’ everyday life, such as gyms, cafeterias, canteens, medical services, etc. Compared with private houses in Oslo, dormitories are cheap and with very good facilities. Also, exchange students have the chance to live with Norwegian students and international students.

Applying a dormitory is not difficult, normally all students can get a dormitory from SiO. Especially, Erasmus students are guaranteed for a house. Students have many different choices, the location of student village, sharing kitchen and bathroom with how many people, and whether the house is furnished. These factors will affect the price of the house. For example, my dormitory was a 13 m² room at Kringsjå studentby. I shared the bathroom with one person, and shared the kitchen with 6 persons. It would take me approximately 20 minutes to city centre by metro (“National Threatret” station). The price was NOK 3821 per month, and deposit is NOK 6000.
2. Course
Before going to Norway, students should select courses with the instructions provided by the coordinator at their faculty. Because I am doing the double degree program, I cannot choose courses according to my interest but only 3 mandatory courses for master students at University of Oslo. Students should submit the learning agreement to International Office at Leibniz University and apply for mobility grant, and also select the courses on University of Oslo’s system “Studentweb”.

Students can choose Norwegian language courses if they like. Learning Norwegian is not mandatory, all the classes for exchange students are provided in English. Moreover, all of Norwegians can speak fluent English. Students without Norwegian language knowledge would not be afraid of language problems.

3. Visa and resident permit
Students from EU/EEA can study in Oslo without visa. But students with EU/EEA citizenship need to register with the Oslo Police if staying for more than 3 months.

Students from outside the European Economic Area (EU- and Swiss Citizens) must apply for a residence permit (and a visa if applicable) immediately after they have received their Admission letter from the University of Oslo. Students with Schengen visa can enter Norway, but they have to apply for Norway’s resident permit if they stay in Norway for more than 3 months. Application for a resident permit costs more than NOK 5000.

II. Study at University of Oslo
University of Oslo is the oldest and the best university in Norway. Compared with my study at Leibniz University, I did not have so many lectures, but it does not mean that I had more free time. Students at University of Oslo have to write more papers, do more presentations, and also do student projects. Students do not need to spend too much time on classes, but they have to spend a lot of time after classes.

If students absent from a class, or have any questions about the class, they can watch the “Lecture videos” online. Normally, all the lessons at the Faculty of Law provide “Lecture videos”.

III. Leisure time in Oslo

If students study in spring semester, it will be super lucky! Because they have the chance to experience the biggest festival: Norway’s Constitution Day (May 17th). Students can see children’s parade and see royal family in front of the royal palace.
The environment in Norway is very good. The European Commission awarded Oslo the prestigious European Green Capital title for 2019. The city has been doing lots of efforts to protect the environment. Also, when doing urban planning, the city preserved many parks, lakes, rivers, forests in the city. Students can enjoy their leisure time with the nature. When I lived in Kringsjå student village, “Sognsvann” is a big lake with forest near my dormitory. It took me 5 minutes to Sognsvann by walking. Many international students like to go hiking to “Vettakollen” in Oslo. At Vettakollen, you can see the full view of the Oslo city and Oslo fjord. If students want to explore islands in Oslo fjord, just take the ferry line B1 and visit 5 islands, also have a short cruise in Oslo fjord. And the ferry is covered by transport ticket zone 1.

Vettakollen in Oslo

IV. Summary
Fortunately, I have the chance to study in Oslo for one semester. I learnt much new knowledge, met many new friends, and experienced Norwegian culture.

Good luck to the students who are going to Norway for exchange study!