

Experience Report

Exchange Location: University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway

Semester: Spring Semester 2020

Period of Stay: January 2020 – June 2020

(pictures are below)

Preparation prior to stay (planning, organisation and application)

There was 7 of us from my program that lucky enough to be selected to go to Oslo for our exchange semester. prior to stay we must taking care of so many documents from registering to university, applying for the erasmus+ to get the grant, and applying for the student housing.

The University of Oslo is very organized, everything regarding the registration and paperworks are done trough online so we just need to fill in all the form and sent it digitally, as for the erasmus paperwork, it was more ccomplicated but still managable, it needs around a month for me to gather all the documents needed and finish the process. As for the housing, all the student that got accepted to the University are guaranteed to get a place in the student housing, so it was really convenient. Next, i just need to buy the plane ticket to Oslo.

Housing

The University is providing the Student Housing for all the students that already got accepted in the University. We are guaranteed the housing in one of their student complexes. To get a place we need to register couple of months before online, chose the type of the housing that we want and then wait until they are assigning us. I got the housing in Sogn Student Village, its only short journey to main campus and very close to city centre, also to a big lake called Sogsvann where we can go jogging, swimming or picnic in summer. I live in a shared flat with 6 other students, we shared bathroom and kitchen, but the flat is quite big and also very clean and modern, looks like they just renovated/upgraded the whole area. Inside the complex there are laundry facilities, mini market, function hall and reading room, but at the time of my stay, they are still doing the upgrade so there was lots of construction workers and noises. Overall, I love my stay there, because I get to meet many amazing people that some of them became very close to me until now.

Studying at the partner university

I am one of few people that are very lucky to have experienced the 'real' study situation in the partner University, as we all know, some of Erasmus students were not even able to go to their destination country because of the pandemic. I got to experience the traditional study situation (face to face in classroom) from January until March before the lockdown started. My Faculty (Law Faculty) also just finished building their new faculty building so we got to see the grand opening that was attended by the Norwegian Royal Family. My campus is also situated in the very heart of City Centre, next to the Royal Palace.

The Professors are great, all the courses that I took are amazing and interesting, very useful for my study and add huge value to my knowledge, their way of teaching is also very effective and interactive, even when they had to switch to digital teaching after the lockdown, the transition went smoothly so the students really didn't lose any valuable time.

Off-campus life and leisure time

Since we live in student housing, parties (almost) every week are kind of expected, that way I got to meet lots of new people and expand my connections. Me and the people close to me there (my group) also often held some dinner occasions together, so we cooked and invited each other to have dinner together, we also explored the city together, went to many beautiful places in the city, having picnics, doing some physical activities or just studying together. Me and my flat mates also did a short road trip around Norway, that made me fall in love with Norway even more because that country is so beautiful, we went hiking and sightseeing around the cities.

Overall, I love these experiences, and if I could I would want to do it again. I fell in love with Norway, I found lots of good people that became my good friends now. I also managed to change myself to become a better version of me now because of my stay there. The only downside is because of the pandemic, I kind of feel like I lost 2 months there because we couldn't go anywhere.



