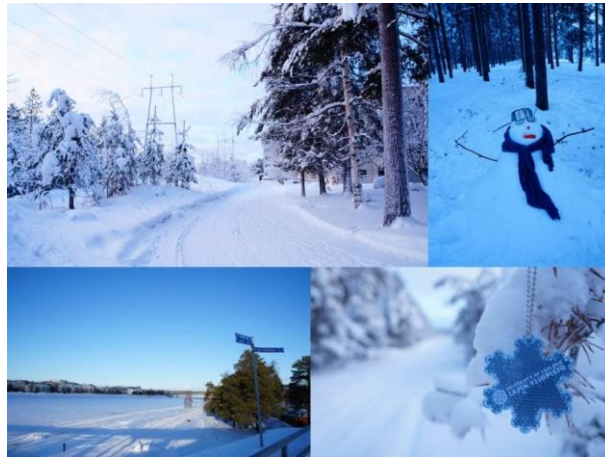


ERASMUS+ experience at University of Lapland,

Finland

I am currently a law student in the EULISP-program, which is a Master's program in Information Technology and Intellectual Property law (IT&IP law) at Leibniz University of Hannover. My study program is an international one. All students have to study abroad at one of the partner universities in the second semester. Therefore, I decided to apply for the University of Lapland, Finland to be my exchange university. Before I left abroad, I had to prepare for example my application for ERASMUS+ and since I am not a citizen from the European Union, I needed to get a visa. All these things happened during my first semester at Leibniz. It took some times but once I was done with all paperwork and procedures, everything went smoothly. Rovaniemi, in Lapland, is famous in particular for the very cold weather. I was there during the winter season, from January to May. It was the coldest winter in my whole life. Since I come from Thailand, I am used to warm weather. Learning how people live during such cold winters was a great experience that I could not have been learning anywhere else. However, in spring Rovaniemi is also very nice for instance for hiking and other outdoor activities. You can go up to the top of mountain and enjoy the scenery.



Speaking of the study program, there is only one Legal Informatics Institute at the University of Lapland. The institute co-operates with a number of other European Institutions. It is mainly self-study. There are not many lecture classes to visit and you have to write essays about approximately 20-30 pages to get credits. However, I had a seminar where I and my colleagues held a presentation to a professor and a PHD student. I obtained a lot of knowledge about IT law during discussion after this presentation.

After the admission process at the University of Lapland the international office sent me a package for exchange student. It included how to book an accommodation. Places to stay during semester are guaranteed for internationals. The student dormitory for exchange students is located in Kuntotie. It is quite far from University and the city center. I chose to stay in two room apartment with one of my colleague from Hannover. I had my own bedroom and shared a kitchen and a bathroom with my roommate. The apartment was in good conditions and the rental fee was not so expensive. Moreover, laundry was for free for student as well as a public sauna. Moreover, students could book for private sauna and fitness in a very cheap price as well. All in all, I could say that I was satisfied with my room in the dormitory.



In terms of leisure time here, there are many activities for student both indoor and outdoor. In winter, students can go for snow skiing and other winter sport. There are furthermore a lot of opportunities to see the northern light. If you lucky enough you can see it right from student dormitory. During summer, it was a time for barbecues and hiking. In addition, there are a number of parties and similar events arranged by the university and also students. Students will have opportunities to get to know the Finnish culture and get-together with other students from different faculties. My semester abroad is over now. In my opinion, having an opportunity to studying in a foreign environment opened my eyes and opened my mind. I have learned to respect and understand different cultures. It helped me in the global level for my career and my life in the future.



Eventually, I am thankful for ERASMUS+ program to give me a great experience and I encourage other students to participate in this program.