

The report of D.V

on exchange semester WS2013/14 at Leibniz Universität Hannover

Preparation

Preparation phase is described really understandable and in detail on official page of LUH. All information what you need is available on this links: http://www.international.uni-hannover.de/bi_austauschprogramme.html?&L=1. It concludes sections from “how to apply” to “sending application via mail”. In addition I want to point out link with english courses of faculty Economics and Management: http://www.wiwi.uni-hannover.de/fileadmin/fakultaet/pdf/internationales/incoming/English_Courses_201213.pdf. You are able to choose any course from this list both bachelor and master courses. But you should keep in mind that all staff of faculty and students don't recommend to take a master courses if you are on bachelor degree.

The most important topic related to preparation is about a visa. I highly recommend to you to begin preparation for visa as soon as possible. So if you have acceptance letter you can start to apply for visa.

Pay attention that you need to apply for national visa (not Schengen visa!!) and you can do it before three month. The earlier you will apply the better it would be for you. First of all, if you don't have scholarship in a size of 650 euro in month you have to open blocked account in German bank. If you don't have full scholarship you should transfer deficient amount on your blocked account. Usually it's a Deutsche Bank. Please, find the links from web-page of Deutsche Bank: https://www.deutsche-bank.de/pfb/content/privatkunden/konto_international-students-en.html#accordion_10767. On this page you can find the section “Forms” from which you should download blanks. The next step is to fill it in and witness your blanks and a copy of pass in the embassy.



For this reason, you have to go to Counselor and legal department in the consulate general. You don't need to make an appointment just go in working time with your documents. It's for free and your pass will be returned to you on the next day. Approximately it takes a week for opening the account. After you have received a confirmation of opening the account you can transfer your money.

Before you appointment is coming make sure that you have all required documents. Follow this links in order to know which documents are necessary for you :

<http://www.germania.diplo.de/Vertretung/russland/ru/06-stpe/visa/dokumente/d-sonst/seite-studium.html>.

Staying in Hannover

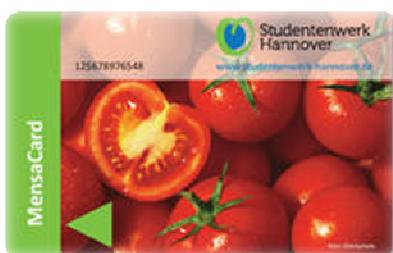
Accommodation

There are two types of accommodation in Hannover which are popular between students. The first type is a dormitory. The second type is a shared flat with other students. All accommodation offer you can find in this links: <http://www.studentenwerk-hannover.de/en-dormitories.html>. There is a specialty connecting with internet. For students who live in dormitory is limited internet traffic in size 5 GB for the last 7 days. It's enough for usual activity in internet like checking your facebook account and email, searching for information and downloading presentation from stud-ip. But it's impossible to watch movie or video for example on YouTube . To the contrary there is free wi-fi in all campuses of the university. And there are too much places where you can always work with you hometask using wi-fi like library or special places in campuses.



Canteens

There are many canteens. Most of students prefer two of them: Hauptmensa and Contine. Hauptmensa is the biggest canteen and is located 5 min walking from Schneiderberg/ W.-Busch-Museum station. But it's working only before 2 pm. Contine is located on Königswortherplatz near economic campuses and it's working until 8 pm. Also there are two ways of paying in the canteens. First one is to pay in cash. The second way is to pay by a "mensa" card. It's the card which you can get at the Hauptmensa (main cafeteria) at the MensaCard desk in the foyer (Mon–Fri 12:00–14:00 h) and at the cash checkouts.



Insurance and registration in Hannover

For staying in Germany you need to make a special insurance (usually it's AOK company), students can get it at the University. It takes a 15 min on after the orientation time if you have all necessary documents. (copy of visa and first page of pass, 1 photo for the card). After the first appointment at the international office in LUH you'll receive necessary documents for the insurance. It costs about 80 Euro pro month.

The next thing, that you need to do in the first 2 weeks of stay – to registrate at the Ausländerbehörde Hannover – special office for the foreigners on the Leinstraße 14. All information is here - <http://www.hannover.de/Leben-in-der-Region-Hannover/B%C3%BCrger-Service/Ausl%C3%A4nder%C2%ADangelegen%C2%ADheiten/Ausl%C3%A4nderbeh%C3%B6rden/Ausl%C3%A4nderangelegen%C2%ADheiten-und-Staatsangeh%C3%B6rigkeit>

Travelling and transport

Student's transport ticket provides an opportunity to use all public transport in all Lower Saxony during the semester without any additional fee. Public transportation in Germany is really modern and developed. There are special offers for various directions with lower prices. Also you can buy Deutsche Bahn special card. Please find additioans information here

http://www.bahn.de/p/view/bahncard/bahncard.shtml?dbkanal_007=L01_S01_D001_KIN0004_bc-top-navi-bahncard_LZ01.

Studying

There is no control of attendance. But it doesn't mean that students have possibility to miss classes. Start to prepare for exams as soon as possible because it's unreal to learn by heart all stuff by several days. Oral exams seem to be easier because your answer could be more general. In written exams answer could be more in-depth with all details. Participate in group projects with other international students. It's really interesting but sometimes arise barriers like different levels of education, cultural and language differences. Nevertheless try to collaborate with your international colleague.

Before leaving

- De-registration (keep in mind to deregister at the registration office. For this, the citizens of the Hanover city council go to the Bürgerämter, whereas the citizens of the region of Hanover head for their Gemeinde (= municipality). For the cancellation the health insurance please deregister from university. For this reason go to the service center and ask "Exmatrikulation bescheinigung".
- Cancellation (cancel your lease/rental contract, health insurance, bank account)
- Certificates (get language certificates)

Conclusions

Finally, I want to say that it was a great opportunity to improve my language skills, get to know new interesting people and German culture.

