

Experience Report – Semester Abroad

Studied abroad in:	Nicosia, Cyprus
Year:	2016/17
Program at the UCB:	Environmental and Business Administration
Degree:	Master

Preparation

The most difficult part of the preparation was the course selection. The courses I picked in Germany which were described as Post-Graduate courses turned out to be preparation classes for a PhD in Econometrics. Since I studied Business Administration for my Bachelor it was impossible to take and pass these classes. Overall it is really hard to see in which universities it is possible to take courses for a Master in Business Administration or Management. I had to go through our partner universities and check everyone myself which was really time intensive. It would be good if the Hochschule Trier would have an overview of all partner universities and which classes can be taken there.

At the end I was lucky. I got in to the new program TIME MBE (Master of Business Economics) which was intensive and time consuming but I got the possibility to do a double degree.

Accommodation

It was easy to find an accommodation in Nicosia. There are several Facebook groups which make getting in contact with landlords and other Erasmus students easy e.g. Nicosia Erasmus Student Accommodation. But it has to be said that if you want to have a quiet surrounding and do not want to party almost every night to look over other Erasmus groups. I cannot recommend to live on campus since it is really expensive and far away from the city center and therefore far away from most of the other Erasmus students. In my first semester in Nicosia I found a flat over the group named before but it was a bit too loud for me so I grouped with a French and a Polish girl for the second semester and found something closer to the city center.

Studying at the partner university

Like mentioned before my courses were intensive, I had to take Master classes otherwise they would not have counted in Germany. The schedule for the first semester had always two-week classes. That means that I had class from Tuesday to Thursday from 18:00 to 22:00 o'clock, After every class we wrote an exam, thus every second Monday. Additionally, I had to do homework assignments and presentations almost for every course.

The second semester was badly structured since it was the first year the program was running and we had many professors from abroad. So additionally to the two-week classes I had one week classes - thus, Monday till Friday from 18:00 to 22:00 o'clock and on Saturday the exams. Also during these classes we had to do assignments and presentations which cost a lot of afford and time. In that semester I had nine classes. I learnt a lot during my stay and although and did not have time to party as much as the other Erasmus students I met students from Cyprus who became good friends.

Leisure time

You have a lot of different opportunities to spend your leisure time in Cyprus. Several organizations are taking care of many different parties each week as well as trips to other locations all over the island. But there are also organizations which do not concentrate that much on party but on culture, history, sight-seeing and other nice trips. So there are several different options where everyone can find the best one for themselves.

Conclusion

I can say although I had my trouble in the beginning with my classes and realizing that the semester will not be as casual I was hoping for, I had a great time. I learnt a lot in those classes, about myself and met great people from Cyprus and other countries.