

Jagoda

Medicine, V year, academic year 21/22



Julius-Maximilians Universität Würzburg, Germany

E+: General information about the Host University, the organization of the academic year, the offer for students coming under the Erasmus+ Program and is it possible to "receive" Buddy?

J: The academic year starts a bit later than in Poland (around mid-October), and there is a spring break in March and April, so classes end in July, while exams can last until August. The layout is similar to that in Poland - there is a division into lectures, seminars and practical classes, and exams are held during sessions and are written. The exams are in the form of closed task tests in various variations (ABCD, true/false, etc.). Databases of questions from previous exams are officially available on the University's website, which is very well organized. Each subject has its own tab, where all information and recordings of lectures are available. Just taking care of students from abroad could be better, because you have to learn about many things on your own. An organizational meeting at the beginning of the year and many activities organized for Erasmus students (not only in medicine) are a plus, such as guided tours of the city, visiting the surrounding vineyards or special events. 😊



E+: Language in which classes were conducted?

J: Classes are taught exclusively in German, as are exams. The only convenience is the ability to have a dictionary, but most often medical words are not in the dictionary anyway 😞

E+: In the case of classes conducted in the national language, was it possible to take exams in English?

J: I didn't ask about that possibility, but I seriously doubt it. All classes and tests were conducted in German. What's more, it is not possible to correct the exams if we are not in Germany during the next session. It is not very friendly for foreign students and extremely stressful.



E+: During the application process, did the University ask for a language certificate confirming the knowledge of the language of instruction? If so, what level was required?

J: I was not asked to send a certificate, but in my opinion (at least in the context of German universities) the level they determine does not really mean anything. Erasmus students are incorporated into groups of German students and the lecturers do not ask whether we can speak German at B2 or C1 level, so I would not suggest that it will be easier at a university requiring B1 level.



E+: Curriculum (were there major curricular differences? Did the syllabus more or less overlap with that in SUM? Was it difficult to match the subjects and create a Learning Agreement?):

J: In this regard, I highly recommend Würzburg. The subjects matched very nicely, often they even coincided with the names and, in most cases, the number of ECTS points. Even despite the pandemic restrictions, I managed to arrange LA without much problem. The only downside that you need to remember is that in order to receive ECTS points, you have to pass an exam - even if there is no exam in Poland, because it is planned for the following years (e.g. in paediatrics, internal medicine, surgery or gynecology).

E+: Accommodation (does the Host University have dormitories? If so, how far were they from the places where the classes were conducted? Was it difficult to get a place in the dorm?):

J: There are a lot of dormitories, and because Würzburg is a small city, even those more distant from the campus are within a dozen or so minutes. As students, we have free public transport (trams and buses), but I rode a bike myself and I highly recommend this form of transport. I lived in a new dormitory, I had a single room with a kitchen and a bathroom and I have great memories :)

E+: How was public transport like?

J: As I wrote before - Würzburg is a small city, you can really walk everywhere or go by bike, and although public transport is organized quite well, it was definitely more convenient for me.



Germany



E+: Food (was there a canteen for students? Discounts on meals?):



J: Personally, I did not go to the canteen, because the food was not outstanding, and you could pay for it only with an identity card, to which money could only be transferred from a "girocard", which I did not want to wear.

E+: Difficulties encountered and tips on how to deal with them:

J: It is worth finding out about alternative ways to earn ECTS points (practice, Virtuelle Hochschule Bayern) to avoid writing exams in every possible subject and to master the learning technique as soon as possible, because the sessions are quite exhausting and the exams are usually difficult.



E+: Useful information/contacts to help organize mobility?



J: German students mainly use WhatsApp - be sure to add yourself to the group of semesters in which you do subjects, because it is in these groups that you will find a lot of important information, sometimes even exam results.

E+: Attractions in the area worth seeing :



J: Würzburg itself is a tourist town, so it is worth visiting it thoroughly. In addition, there is also the picturesque Bamberg in the area (I recommend going to a symphony concert). Living in Franconia (remember, not in Bavaria!!) it is worth going to Frankfurt or Munich. Even the surrounding villages like Marktbreit are very pretty, and the train journey itself through the mountains and valleys is an attraction! 😊

E+: Overall mobility experience and advantages of participating in the Erasmus+ Programme:

J: The period of the exam period (especially the summer) was very stressful for me, but I do not regret my decision. Erasmus allowed me to broaden my horizons, develop my knowledge of German and realize my dream of studying abroad. During the exchange I also met a person who is now one of my best friends! It was a very nice time that I remember with pleasure.



Germany

