

ALLEMAGNE – FACHHOCHSCHULE KIEL

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¹ To update the agenda just click right on your moose

I. Your overall feeling after your semester abroad

It was a great experience, I could meet new and lovely people, get into another country, discover the system, landscapes, and grow as a person. The university's international department is really here to help you and answer your questions.

I would definitely recommend this to someone, you have to work for your semester but this is a great opportunity and international staff is amazing and can guide you anytime you need.

GRADE : 4/5

=> 0 (I do not recommend this semester abroad to my best friend) - 5 (I totally recommend this semester to my best friend)

II. Before the travel

A. Preparation

1. Visa

A visa is not required for NON-EU citizens. However, you must register at the city centre (Rathaus) to officially declare your residence.

As a non-EU citizen, a visa is required before entering the country. The school may be able to help you with some aspect of the process. Once in Germany, you will also need to register to the Rathaus and later book an appointment with the immigration office.

As an EU citizen, I cannot provide much information regarding the visa and the procedures.

In case-do not worry, during the two weeks of orientation the school provides a printed guide explaining all of this explaining administrative steps in it but also during the meeting on your first day there.

In case you ever feel lost, the international office is very welcoming, you can email or visit them in person and they'll help you to find a solution.

2. The flight

Personally, I did not take any plane or train, my parents drove me there by car, which was the easiest solution for us.

However, there are different options to travel there:

- **Train:** Expect at least one or two connections, often in large cities. Be mindful about the layover times and possible delays.
- **Plane/train:** There is no airport in Kiel. Most people land in Hamburg and then take a train to Kiel (there are frequent connections).
- **Bus:** Some student, I talked with (exchange of the previous year), used Flixbus as an option. Especially as a connection after arriving in Hamburg instead of the train.

Since Kiel does not have any airport, reaching the city always involves a second leg by train or bus.

3. My luggage

If you are arriving in March, bring warm clothes: winter clothes, thick jumpers, and layers. The weather is generally colder and rainier than in France, especially the south. Locals say that winter was sunnier than usual, but rain and low temperature are common, as well as wind, humidity. As it is next to the sea the weather can change fast be aware. For late spring and summer, the temperature was around 22°C and can go up to 28°C but not that often.

Unless your family plans to visit you and bring seasonal clothes, pack for both cold and mild weather.

An umbrella is definitely recommended.

4. Bank account

As an EU citizen I did not open a new bank account. Just make sure that your card does not charge extra fees for payment transactions, and if you can avoid withdrawals abroad. This can save you money.

For the rent an SEPA was accepted and asked.

For non-EU-citizens, opening a German bank account may be required. Check with your home bank or contact the school for more information.

5. Insurance

As an EU citizen, the European Health insurance card (EHIC) was sufficient. The university will ask you to submit proof of insurance, they provide you a link to upload a scan of your card

I also had additional private coverage through my parent's home insurance, which included civil liability, health and emergency assistance abroad. You can also subscribe to private insurance plans like those offered by AXA.

For non-EU citizenship, subscribing to German public insurance is mandatory. You'll need to provide proof of it to enrol at the university.

The insurance step is mandatory to get enrol to the university; it is one of the last steps.

B. Housing

1. Where to live



The pink circle is the area I was (approximatively).
 The red area is the one which is not recommended to live in.
 The green one is the one recommended.

NB: the west coast (where I was) is better for activities because the city centre and a lot of activities are there, but farther from the university. The East coast, where the FH is, has less activity, but you can live next to the campus, which can be a good option to avoid too much transportation. Also, check for supermarkets around, especially the East Coast, as I do not know it so well.

I take 45 minutes by bus (X60 or 11, both last stops to go to school). A ferry also connects the two coasts (more regularly from late March and the beginning of April). And it takes about 10min to 15 minutes. To go home, I had to take a bus or walk. If you have the choice of your area, you should consider both commute and lifestyle preferences.

2. Find a flat or a room

Be proactive. I applied approximately around late December/ early January and it was not good management; it was a bit late.

I applied both to the Student Week and public accommodation. On the school website, international page, accommodation outlet, all emails and links are indicated.

There are also links towards private (be careful about scam if any doubt asks the school) and public websites for accommodation are available.

At first, I did get initial response answers, but at some points the university had some reservation agreements with some dorms and offered me some (all the links, addresses, and rent are written in this email). You need to apply really fast; it is the first one who is asking that can have a proposition. After studying the proposition, I sent that evening,

after having received the email, my preferences and mentioned that I was still open to another proposition. I had an answer with an offer, and I took it.

Be aware that in Germany, you generally have to pay the full semester, from March to August, it is mandatory.

3. Cost

The cost varies depending on the provider (public or private), where you are living and which dorm, the square meter of your room, and the type of your apartment (shared apartment, or shared kitchen and bathroom on a floor).

My rent was about 450€, I had a room about 25 square meters with a shared appartement (share bathroom, kitchen). My roommates were paying approximately 350 or slightly less

You can find cheaper options such as 280 € or more expensive. For instance, with the private dorm home&co which is also next to the campus (600€).

Estimate plan I would recommend: on average 400€/month.

This will bring you stability and comfort.

III. When I arrive at the university

A. Inscription at the university

Once I had been nominated, the school contacted me. It was before arriving at the very beginning. They gave me the link to a platform (mobility online). In the email, they were explaining that I had to fill in all the required documents in order to be registered. There is a deadline to respect, so be careful about this. The type of document can be an ID, European health card, your contract, etc.

If you have any questions, you can email them to help you figure everything out (it is precise in the email).

When I arrived there, I had done most of the enrollment, and I also paid in advance 200/250€ fees for my student card. You can pay in advance by card or by cash when you arrive directly.

This late gives me access to the train, bus and public transportation in Germany (not only my lander). Be careful of the train, it only works with the regional once, not the fast called I.C.E.

You have a two-week mandatory orientation before classes start. It includes fun activities to bond with Erasmus students and important administrative sessions.

- Class information/administration

The first day is really important, they give you all the information for the classes, campus, what you will have to do with the coordinator but also, the

administrative part of your stay (register to the city centre, bank they recommend if you want one, immigration desk, radio tax etc.). You will also receive your password and ID/email for the 3 websites of the university.

You will have an appointment with your coordinator during these two weeks to welcome you and explain to you how it works.

- Campus tour
- City tour
- Escape game or climbing tree if you go in September
- Some appointments in board games coffee
- Bar
- German classes
- Coordinator appointments

N.B. Some courses you took might not be available, it can change your contract.

Moreover, in Germany, you choose your courses but also your schedule. While you are choosing, you should make sure that the courses you have do not overlap.

B. Information on the university

1. Class

- **Cross-cultural:** The course was really interesting; the teacher was dedicated and nice. I liked the content. I recommend this course if you are interested in cultural dimensions in business, to understand their importance.
- **Digital Marketing (master course):** I like this course because I could see the marketing from a digital approach and have more knowledge about it. The teacher is also really helpful, and you can reach out easily by email. I recommend this course. The way of working is different because we are graded on a project for clients that we present and give a report.
- **Business psychology:** This course is interesting; the grades are based on a report with a case to analyse, which represents quite a lot of work. Psychology is interesting; however, I felt a bit lost regarding what theory the course brings and how to research and incorporate it into the report. I recommend it if you are interested in business psychology, in order to analyse behaviour and link it to some theories and knowledge about this field.
- **Strategic management:** really interesting course regarding the strategies you apply to your company, some notions may have already been seen. It is still a really interesting course, which I recommend. The teacher was implied. It was a bit technical in some parts (some struggles), but the content was good. 3 assignments (with the final exam), so it requires some work.
- **Principles of Marketing:** interesting and different from the classic teaching (flip class). Each group with a subject had one one-hour presentation regarding the chapter of the book (subject) they had to teach us. You have to be a bit creative regarding the presentation, activities or way of teaching because you are pretty free of the format. I recommend it even if I already knew some basics, I may see some parts a bit more technical, but I knew the marketing a bit already.

- **Organisational behaviour:** really interesting it goes a long in my opinion with business psychology. It was interesting for me and my project. I like the content, a bit less the presentation length (90min of presentation) which differed from the people of the first semester (2 to compensate for the courses I did not link with this one and one as extra points). The goal is to repeat through the mcq or case study you chose the previous class to refresh your mind and learn by repetition.

2. Organization of the Class

The duration of the class differs from one to another but most generally the classes are classes of 3 hours, the good point is there are way less classes per day than we do in France. But you need more personal work, I think.

In my case: one course the Monday between 14h30 to 17h00; Tuesday 2 courses starting on 10h15 45min break and then optional class (German); two courses the Wednesday; one on Thursday and one on Friday).

My teachers were really friendly, and simply generally speaking. We were not that much in English teaching class between 10 to 15 maximum I would say.

When finishing the course everybody claps the teacher, but with your fist on the table.

Some students leave the course in the middle or go to the bathroom, while teachers keep going on the course. This is a bit disturbing, at least, for me.

3. List of courses and recommendation

- Easier courses, in my opinion, would be
- **Cross-cultural**, interesting and not too complicated if you understood the course. The organisation is beginning with a student presentation, then doing the course (3h). The teacher is M.Gulev
- Medium
- **Organisational behaviour**, this course is not complicated to understand, the MCQ can be a bit tricky, and the presentation can be quite a challenge depending on the time the teacher asks to hold. Classes were about 3 hours each. The teacher is M. Schulte.
- **Principles of marketing** is a course not too complicated to understand, but there is a lot of information. Moreover, the aim of the class is for the students through presentation to teach/ apply what they learn at home through videos on Moodle and the chapter (reverse class principle). The teacher was M. Qushta.
- **Business psychology** can be hard sometimes but is understandable. Sometimes some exercises are proposed on moodle (be aware). The course lasts 3 hours, the teacher is M.Walsh.
- **German (optional)**, a medium, sometimes hard because the language is not easy and I was beginning. Also, I focused more on the other subjects, as this one was an option and did not count for me. Class was 3 hours. The teacher was Mariann.
- Hard
- **Digital marketing** the course is interesting, but you have to do the project by yourself and propose your marketing plan for a client. It is really interesting but depending on the project you will have changed every semester) it can be a bit

challenging. However, I think it is a good way to learn also. The teacher was M. Hardiman.

- **Strategic management**, the course is understandable, some bases are seen at home, however, some parts are more difficult. Moreover, in the exam everything I saw was in it, which makes it difficult if you do not remember some parts. Each class lasted 3 hours. The teacher is M. Gulev.

Generally speaking, the courses were easier for me, indeed, at MOMA I struggled a bit more regarding some courses due to my different educational background (lack of some knowledge for some subjects).

4. Exam

I had exams during the courses mainly.

<i>course</i>	<i>Type of exam</i>	<i>format</i>	<i>duration</i>	<i>grade</i>
Cross cultural:	Final exam Presentation essay	Written on paper (questions) Oral written	2 hours	Total→ 100% 80% 10% 10%
Digital Marketing	Project report+ oral	Group+ individual work	All semester to write the report, deadline indicated by the teacher 7 min oral (non graded)	100%
Business psychology	Case report + peer review	Report/paper	All semester, deadline indicated by the teacher	100%
Strategic management:	2 assessments (1 presentation, one paper) during the semester+ final	Oral written	Assessment→1 week Final exam 2 h	20% 70% 100%
Principle of marketing	Presentation+ MCQ (*2)	Oral MCQ→ on computer	Oral→ 1 hour MCQ→ 30 minutes	70% 30%

Organisational behaviour	<i>Presentation Final exam (split in two Mcq)</i>	<i>Presentation is oral MCQ→ on computer</i>	<i>Presentation depend from a semester to another (my case→ 90 min each. I did 3, one was a bonus) MCQ→ 40min</i>	16% (*2) 70%
German	<i>Final exam</i>	<i>Written on paper</i>	<i>2 hours</i>	100%

I had all my exams during the week and did not have them in the “official” period of the exam which is happening during kiel woche. Generally speaking, between the 23 to 4th of July maximum, I had my last exam on 20th of June. However, I had a report to submit in July.

Grades of each work are graded on 5. 5 is the worst grade and 1 the best. In Germany the final grades are expressed in percentage. They combine all the examinations/ assessment formats you had in your subject.

IV. When I life there

A. Safety

I would say that Germany is mostly safe but you should always be aware no matter what. I did not go out that much, however, you should stay vigilant in the train station, during kiel woche, and the red areas of the map.

B. Phone and Internet

I kept my French operator that was available in the EU. In order to avoid extra fees, WhatsApp is a good solution for family calls.

As a non-EU-citizen it's possible to take different mobile operators with internet data such as Vodafone, LycaMobile. Mostly you pay for the package and get a card together 10 GB costs 10 EU but prices vary.

C. Events

Basically, we had two different WhatsApp groups, where all events were posted. There is community of ESN (Erasmus Student Network) which organise pretty frequently a lot of events including meetups, trips, and etc also specifically in Fachhochschule is based international club governed by International Office FH Kiel they organise different activities and events for cultural exploration and networking among international students of FH Kiel.

For the event, there are groups on WhatsApp, for example, dorms, ESN WhatsApp group, has said previously. Regarding, event, some dorms or bars, propose also sole activities.

Indeed, I had some transfers in our friend's group regarding quiz game night etc. You can see the social media of the city or their webpage, as well as the FH Instagram.

D. Sports

There are a bunch of activities proposed by the school at the beginning of the semester, football, volleyball, dance, and if I am not mistaken rugby too. Non sportive activities such as theatre. There are a lot of sports facilities such as gym Fitz, John REED. Near my dorm there is running stadium, calisthenics park and other facilities for climbing, tennis football

E. Eating

Some outside restaurants that I tried and liked were: 60 seconds to Napoli; fittitini; seoulbap; Osteria; Cup & Cino (Italian restaurant mainly).

In Angarskiche there are also crêpes and wurst stands. I did not try them but it can be interesting. For traditional German food you can visit the restaurant Luneburg. Bar Hansa 46 is a very famous place for drinks and meeting new people.

In the city you can visit different fast-food places such as MacDonalds, and KFC.

International market (during kiel whoche);

Otherwise, you can walk around and find some places in the city centre to discover.

In FH, there is the mensa (cantine) and cafeteria, more expensive than home university.

F. Go to the university: bus, car, bike

I got there by bus as it was easier for me but bike (can be rented in the city), ferry, scooter are possibilities.

In the bus as mentioned previously it took me on average 45min to get there or 30 sometimes. The ferry takes 10min to cross but I needed a bus and it took longer. I never tried bikes or scooters then even the first 30min are free.

G. Travels

I did not travel a lot unfortunately. However, I do recommend going to Hamburg! It is a really beautiful and dynamic city with a beautiful town hall. I also appreciated Lübeck, it is a nice little city. With the regional train. It is really interesting to travel for free with the student ticket in Germany (tuition fees at the beginning of the semester. Apparently, not all universities give it to the Erasmus). Flensburg also is recommended; it is a city located at the Denmark border, some really love it, some appreciate it but not a strong feeling.

Berlin is also something people like to go to (plan 4 hours of train, if no delay. Hi DB! 😊). Berlin is, or really liked, or not really liked depends on the people. It is a really split opinion; it is rarely a mixt.

I travelled to Lübeck and Hambourg only ☹.

So, my knowledge about the other cities is from some exchanges and discussions with my friends. If you also have the opportunity to go to another country you definitely should go.

Flensburg was appreciated by some people, a bit less for others. Bremen is described as a cute, nice city though you still have a long trip by train to make 3h30, which was not always described as the best optimisation for a trip only in this city.

We have an interdisciplinary week (2 weeks of break from your normal courses, in order to choose voluntary courses to allow you to discover things with no link with your actual studies). You can pick some or just travel, or take some advance of projects and homework, welcoming your family etc. I did 2 days in Hamburg while welcoming my parents, and worked on some things.

H. Any other information you would have liked to know about

I would like to know that my learning agreement can change because of a schedule problem or just a cancellation.

I would have appreciated to know that some courses expect a long presentation.

A small thing, but I would have liked to be aware that the laundry machine needed coins (only until June), it accepted only 1, 2, 0.50 €.

It's obligatory to pay radio money 18.36 € every month. It's possible to share the cost with other roommates in a shared apartment, flatmates and pay less.

While doing official work such as ordering and activating debit cards, health insurance, city registration or radio you will get all the info by post, it's important to regularly check your mail box.

Checking calendar holidays is helpful to avoid closed markets in the local area.

Also, on Sunday everything is closed, even the morning, be aware.

I would also have known a bit before that the websites (moodle, qis, cassi, email) are not on the same platform.

V. After your semester abroad

A. What are you planning do to?

Did you apply for a master?

I have been accepted into MODR in initial training.

[remember to fill in the excel : https://lnkd.in/eUt_xB54]

