



Freiformulierter Erfahrungsbericht

Studienbegleitender Auslandsaufenthalt

Basisdaten (bitte alle Angaben eintragen!)

Fakultät/Fach:	Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaften, Sozialökonomie
Fachsemester:	3. Semester
Gastland:	Dänemark
Gasthochschule/-institution:	Aalborg Universitet
Art des Aufenthalts (z.B. Studium, Praktikum)	Studium
Zeitpunkt des Aufenthalts (z.B. SoSe 2016):	WiSe 2022/23
Dauer des Aufenthalts (z.B. 3 Monate):	5 Monate
Mobilitätsprogramm (z.B. Hamburglobal, Zentralaustausch):	Erasmus
Bewerbungsrunde (z.B. März 2016):	Jan. 2022

Vorbereitung und Anreise

From my perspective, the most important point in preparation is having sufficient time to clarify all the details in advance and know all the deadlines. Regardless of which semester you plan to choose (winter or summer), you have to submit your documents before the end of January. It is critical not to do everything at the eleventh hour and give yourself time to prepare all the documents carefully.

From Hamburg there is no direct connection to Aalborg, which was a little bit frustrating. Most likely, you will have to do at least one switch. If you have a lot of luggage, I would recommend going with a friend, who can help you carry it. In case you do not have many bags and you want to make your way to Aalborg a bit cheaper, you could take Flixbus to Aarhus and from there a train to Aalborg (which has a very regular and good transport connection). By train, it takes only 1 hour to go to Aalborg from Aarhus.

Finanzierung des Auslandsaufenthalts/ Kosten vor Ort

I would recommend finding a room/dorm downtown, even though the university is 6 kilometres away from the centre. It is way more convenient since all the fun activities usually take place in the centre. It is very easy to get to the university. The bus №2 runs every 5 minutes in the morning. To use it, you will have to purchase a bus card at the NT station (a card with a monthly subscription costs around 380 kr., however check the blue card because if you plan to travel a lot, it will be a better deal; you can also visit places outside Aalborg with this card). Or obviously, you can commute by bike since there is an excellent infrastructure (however, the weather sometimes is not that excellent).

I was renting a room in a dorm downtown for 3240 kr (435 euro) per month. The payments are split into 2 transactions, every 3 months. The 3 most affordable grocery stores are Rema 1000, Netto and Lidl. In case you would like some variety, you can also go to Meny or Føtex.

Unterbringung und Verpflegung / Accommodation & Meals

Another important thing is to take care of accommodation. In Aalborg, I applied for a dormitory as soon as I had received an offer from the AAU. The location was very central - Boulevarden, 38 (only 2 minutes away from the railway station). The rent covers 6 months: from August to the end of January, even if the start of studies is in September.

I had no need to go to canteen because we did not have many classes a day, and I was able to cook at home most of the time. Nevertheless, there is a canteen on campus, which offers quite affordable and delicious meals.

Gasthochschule/ Gastinstitution

Aalborg Universitet (AAU) has several campuses. Mine was at Fibigerstræde 2. What I really liked about the campus was a very good infrastructure and different facilities for students (lounge rooms, kitchens, vending machines, Friday bars 😊). The library is a stone's throw away from the main campus and is a great place to study, get necessary books and drink coffee or grab something to eat.

Ablauf des Studiums (z.B. Kurswahl, Anforderungen)/ Praktikums/ Forschungsaufenthalts etc.

I was not able to choose the courses because AAU has a fixed curriculum, which upset me at first. But to be honest, the courses were entertaining and brought a lot of insights for me. Studying at AAU entailed a lot of research, teamwork, case studies and projects. What was quite unique was the way courses were designed and structured. Instead of taking all the exams at once at the end of the semester, AAU offers a different approach: 2 weeks of in-depth learning and 100% concentration on one course and an exam afterwards. Upon passing the exam, students proceed with the next course. The gradual system helps to dedicate one's time to a specific topic, which I found to be very effective. Plus, it enabled students to have more free time. From mid-November onwards, students focus solely on the Semester Project, the topic of which they can freely choose. I found it to be a nice preparation for Master's Thesis.

Alltag/ Freizeitmöglichkeiten

Aalborg is a lovely student city. It is extremely easy to meet new people and make friends thanks to the variety and abundance of different events. Playing billiard at Studenterhuset, partying at Jomfru, ice skating, going to football/hockey games, attending fairs, enjoying the views from the fjord and so much more! Your student card can bring you some perks, e.g., discounts in certain places (coffeeshops, museums, some stores and so on).

I would also recommend applying for a buddy as this will help expanding the network and getting in touch with more people. The Buddy Network hosts events exclusively for students participating in it (e.g., Halloween & Christmas parties).

Despite the fact that Danes speak good English, I would recommend taking a Danish course. It is a great way to meet new people and get integrated into the culture. The basic knowledge also helps a lot to get some orientation in the town and comes in handy in the stores. The course is for free, but you have to pay a deposit (around 270 euro), which you get back once you have passed the exam.

If you are keen on travelling, I would recommend exploring Nordjylland. I am certain the breathtaking views of Hirtshals, Løkken and Skagen will not leave you indifferent! It is also

quite easy to get to Göteborg: take a train to Frederikshavn (around 1 hour from Aalborg) and hop on a ferry, 3.5 hours – and you are in Sweden!

Zusammenfassung

To conclude, I am very happy I opted for Aalborg as a destination of my exchange semester. As a result, I have obtained new knowledge, friends around the world, amazing memories and fascinating experiences! Travelling and different cultures have definitely expanded my horizons. These five months are unforgettable, and it was absolutely worth the effort!