



# Freiformulierter Erfahrungsbericht

## Studium oder Sprachkurs im Ausland

Liebe Studierende,

vielen Dank, dass Sie Ihre Erfahrungen aus Ihrem Auslandsaufenthalt mit anderen teilen. Ihr Bericht ist eine wichtige Informationsquelle und große Hilfe für alle zukünftigen Austauschstudierenden. Bitte tragen Sie Ihre Grunddaten in die untenstehende Tabelle ein. Auf der nächsten Seite finden Sie Stichworte, die Ihnen als Hilfestellung zur Strukturierung Ihres Berichts dienen können. Bitte gehen Sie in Ihrem Bericht neben den positiven Aspekten auch auf Schwierigkeiten oder gewöhnungsbedürftige Umstände ein, auf die Sie an Ihrer Gastuniversität oder in Ihrem Gastland gestoßen sind. Dies wird für Ihre Nachfolger\*innen besonders hilfreich sein.

Wir möchten Sie darauf hinweisen, dass jeder Erfahrungsbericht, inklusive der Grunddaten und Bilder, auf der [Website des WISO-International Office](#) **veröffentlicht** wird. Die Angabe von **Namen und E-Mail-Adresse** ist daher **freiwillig**, kann allerdings hilfreich sein, wenn zukünftige Austauschstudierende Sie persönlich um Rat fragen möchten.

Bei weiteren Fragen steht Ihnen das Team des WISO-International Office immer gern zur Verfügung!

### Grunddaten

Name:	David Caicedo Sarralde
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Fakultät, Fachbereich*:	VWL, MSc. Politics, Economics and Philosophy
Studienlevel (Bachelor/Master)*:	Master
Land*:	Finland
(Partner)Hochschule/Institution*:	University of Helsinki
Aufenthaltszeitraum*:	08.2020-05.2021

\* = Pflichtfeld

## **Bewerbungsprozess**

The application process was very clear and easy to follow. Although there were several steps that needed to be implemented and documents to be gathered, there were no major inconveniences regarding the gathering of the respective documents. The application deadline was a bit too short, but it was possible for me to gather all the papers in time. Perhaps lesser papers or a longer deadline would have been helpful to avoid having to rush to gather all the required documents, as some of them required a relatively big waiting time for the institutions to generate the required documents.

## **Vorbereitung und Anreise**

The preparation was very easy, at least regarding the help from the university of Helsinki and Hamburg and the Erasmus program. I did not have to look for accommodation for the application because it was already included in the MO platform. Not having to look for accommodation and having to undergo the stress that it may entail, was a very satisfying detail of the preparation before my travel. This made the preparation much easier and enjoyable.

## **Finanzierung des Auslandsstudiums/Kosten vor Ort**

The costs in Finland were much higher than I expected. The stipendium provided by the Erasmus program was very helpful, although it only covered one third of my average monthly expenses in the city of Helsinki. I was lucky enough to find a job as a research assistant at the university, and also worked part time for other institutions in the city, which allowed me to avoid consuming my savings at a rate that would have been too fast for me to be able to keep with my expenses.

## **Unterbringung/Wohnungssuche**

Like I mentioned before, fortunately the Erasmus program has really done a good job in providing us exchange students with organization of accommodation before our arrival to our destination countries. This was a detail that I valued very much.

## **Gastuniversität/Gastinstitution/Kursprogramm**

The university of Helsinki is indeed one of a kind, its impressive avant-garde architecture, vibrant student community and strong community feeling, made a very interesting combination for a one-of-a-kind Erasmus experience. On top of that, the courses that I took during my almost one year exchange were very fruitful for my future academic perspective, even to the extent that I found a topic I could truly be passionate about and with which I would be looking forward to undertaking a Ph.D on.

## **Studentischer Alltag/Freizeitmöglichkeiten**

The student life was really great. The Erasmus students created a big community for all sorts of social activities. On top of that the university really made a huge effort in providing students with socializing scenarios, such as the truly amazing orientation week, with all sorts of games which included alcohol sometimes. Another fun thing about Helsinki student life was having the city library as a social area, with games and plenty of entertainment rooms where students, professors and any person in general hanged out during the cold wintertime. Additionally, the University cafeteria was by far the best one I

have visited amongst all my exchanges. The food was great, perhaps even gourmet style. The prices were overwhelmingly cheap (funded by the government). You could meet all your friends at the cafeteria, or if you were alone, talking to strangers was very easy and enjoyable. The Uni Cafeteria was so iconic that people often said that if you do not visit the University Cafeteria in Helsinki, then you have not been in the city at all.

### **Zusammenfassung**

The experience in Helsinki can only be summarized in one word: Majestic. There is plenty of gratitude for all the friends that I made, the humble and warm-hearted professors, the avid and always friendly students, the never-ending city to discover, the magical and ancestral Nature places found all over the city, the help from both international offices for the extension of my exchange, the wise and insightful Finnish language, the kind shyness of Finnish peoples, the wisdom of the Sami and the *sisu* itself (A part of the Finnish culture). I can perhaps say only one recommendation: If you go on an Erasmus exchange, either you go to Helsinki or you don't go on exchange at all.

### **Fotos/weitere Anhänge**