

REPORT ON MY ERASMUS EXPERIENCE

1. What is your name and which program did you attend?

My name is Luca and I'm a student enrolled in MSC in Finance & Banking.

2. Where and when did you go during your Erasmus program?

I spent three months, from April to July (2018), in Frankfurt an der Oder, Germany.

3. How did you like living there?

Frankfurt (Oder) is a very small town close to Berlin, built on the river Oder, which represents the natural border between Germany and Poland. Living there is not that easy if you cannot speak Deutsch. German bureaucracy is quite complicated. Just to mention few things: you will need to open a German bank account and you will have to be registered at the city hall. For those things I felt lucky when I found someone who was able to either speak or even understand English. However, the University offers free language courses for one semester. Frankfurt is a nice, small, quiet and cozy city.

4. What about the University?

The professors in Viadrina University are kind and well prepared. Bernd Schünow, who is at the head of the Office of International Affairs, is the kindest and most cheerful person I've ever met. You will not have any kind of administrative or bureaucratic problem with the University. They are much clearer and better organized than the University of Tor Vergata (or any other University in Rome).

5. What is the level of the courses? Did you find similarities to those in Tor Vergata?

The semester is divided in two blocks (exactly as it is for Finance & Banking), there is a week of exams at the end of each block, and most of the courses are provided with home assignments. I attended two courses: Behavioral Finance and Quantitative Risk Management. Both were interesting and challenging. However, I have to say that it wasn't easy to find courses which were suitable for my academic career. There aren't more than three or four courses for the students of Finance & Banking.

6. Is there any particular advice that you would like to give to another student who will go there in the future?

As I already said, living there is not that easy if you cannot speak Deutsch. However, for the reasons I mentioned above, I wouldn't suggest this place for the students enrolled in Finance & Banking. Maybe it is more appealing for the students enrolled in Business Administration or European Economy and Business Law.

7. Do you wish to be contacted for further information by interested students?

No thanks, that's the reason why I omitted my surname.