

STUDIERENDEN-ENDBERICHT 2011 /2012

Gastuniversität: Universität Mannheim

Aufenthaltsdauer: von 1.2. 2012 bis 30.6.2012

Studienrichtung: Joint Master Studium in Vergleichender Sozialpolitik

BITTE GLIEDERN SIE DEN BERICHT IN FOLGENDE PUNKTE:

1. Stadt, Land und Leute

I was staying in Mannheim, Baden Württemberg, Germany. Mannheim is the second largest city after Stuttgart in Baden Württemberg with a population of 322,000 residents. It is a city with a friendly and cosmopolitan atmosphere, easy to get around and with nice surroundings (for instance, beautiful regions of Odenwald and Palatinate well-known for its vineyards and traditional wine festivals; historical Heidelberg is only 20 km away). The university's campus is located in the heart of the city. I found the local people quite easy going and helpful.

2. Soziale Integration

The University of Mannheim hosts a great number of international students. The international office seems to be very experienced and provides a professional service regarding the social integration of all the students in order to feel comfortable during their stay in Mannheim. Next to the international office, there is a plenty of students' organizations (i.e. AIESEC, VISUM, AEGEE, etc.) organizing various events and trips.

3. Unterkunft

I was staying at one of the students' dormitories run by "Studentenwerk Mannheim". I presume that there may be differences in quality standards among those dormitories and I was unluckily staying in one (Am Steingarten 14) which was not very well kept, rather dirty. I was sharing a doublette with another international student and payed for my room EUR 293.

4. Kosten

Semester contribution – EUR 59 per Semester

Accommodation – EUR 293 per Month

Public transportation (semester pass) – EUR 138 (Students staying for two semesters get free transport ticket during their first semester)

Food – approximately EUR 200 per month (University Mensa is reasonable – approximately EUR 4 per lunch menu)

Copy/ Books – approximately EUR 40-50 per Month

5. **Sonstiges (Visum, Versicherung, etc.)**

Health Insurance – EUR 200 for six months

6. **Beschreibung der Gastuniversität**

The University of Mannheim (founded in 1907 and emerged from the State College of Economics) is located in a Baroque Palace in the centre of Mannheim. Around 11,000 students study at the University; most of them are enrolled in Business Administration.

7. **Anmelde- und Einschreibformalitäten**

For enrolment is needed:

- Letter of Acceptance
- Receipt of payment of €59,- (Semester contribution to the Studentenwerk)
- Proof of health insurance coverage, e.g. EHIC Card (European Health Insurance Card). International health insurance is not accepted.
- Passport (with valid visa)

After enrolment at the University of Mannheim students must register at the **Governmental Registration Office** (Einwohnermeldeamt) within one week upon arrival. Whether students live in Mannheim or in another town they must register at the so-called Bürgerdienste. Students also have to de-register when they leave Mannheim after their period of study.

8. **Studienjahreinteilung**

Winter Semester – from August 1 to January 31 (Lecture period: September 5 – December 9)

Spring Semester – from February 1 to July 31 (Lecture period: February 13th – June 1st)

9. **Einführungswoche bzw. –Veranstaltungen**

Welcome week: February 7th – February 10th 2012

- Campus tour (provided information about studies at the University of Mannheim, the university facilities and the city of Mannheim)

- Welcome Reception (giving an opportunity to get to know staff members of the International Office and to get in touch with other exchange students; also included presentations of student organizations and their programmes of events)

Introduction to Uni Mannheim's academic system for exchange students (both in German and English)

10. **Kursangebot und besuchte Kurse (kurze Beschreibung und evtl. Bewertung)**

Comparative Economy and the Welfare State: Historical Comparative Methods (Seminar, 6 ECTS)

This seminar provided an introduction into comparative strategies and methods building on Max Weber and Emile Durkheim. Next to comparative methods, students get acquainted with fuzzy sets, event history analysis, time series, pooled cross-sectional time-series, etc. This seminar is very intellectually enriching but it is rather a PhD course.

Economy and the Welfare State: Comparing Welfare Capitalism in Europe (Seminar, 6 ECTS)

This seminar focused on welfare states and market economies in Europe, comparing developments and outcomes in Western and Eastern Europe. In this seminar I got more familiar with the varieties of market economies, production systems and welfare states in Europe.

Apart from those two seminars, I was taking two German courses (Communication and Grammar), then I was pursuing an internship at the Mannheim Center for European Social Research and working on my Master's Thesis.

11. **Credits-Verteilung bezogen auf Kurse, „study workload“ pro Semester**

Comparative Economy and the Welfare State: Historical Comparative Methods – Seminar (6 ECTS)

Economy and the Welfare State: Comparing Welfare Capitalism in Europe – Seminar (6 ECTS)

Master's Thesis – 10 ECTS

12. **Benotungssystem**

The grading system according to ECTS standards:

1,0 - 1,5	excellent	A
1,6 - 2,0	very good	B
2,1 - 2,5	good	C
2,6 - 3,5	satisfactory	D
3,6 - 4,0	sufficient	E
4,1 - 5,0	fail	F
(mit Erfolg) bestanden	passed (successfully)	
(regelmäßig) besucht	attended (regularly)	

13. **Akademische Beratung/Betreuung**

The International Office provides counseling services and then every faculty has a coordinator assigned for international students.

14. **Resümee**

Spending my final semester in Germany at the University of Mannheim I found as a great studying as well as life experience. The University does not have only a good reputation but also a nice flair (its location in the baroque palace), local professors are approachable to students and students as well as the lectures intellectually stimulating. In my opinion, the University of Mannheim is one of the best places where one can study.

15. **Tipps und was man sonst noch unbedingt wissen sollte**

4. Kosten

Ausgaben im Rahmen des Auslandsaufenthaltes (in €):

Monatliche Gesamtausgabe (inkl. Quartier):	€ 601
davon Unterbringung:	€ 293 pro Monat
davon Verpflegung:	€ 200 pro Monat
davon Fahrtkosten am Studienort:	€ 28 pro Monat
davon Kosten für Bücher, Kopien, etc.:	€ 40 pro Monat
davon erforderliche Auslandsranken- /Unfallversicherung:	€ 40 pro Monat
davon Sonstiges: _____	€ pro Monat

Nicht monatlich anfallende Kosten:

Impfungen, med. Vorsorge:	€ 0
Visum:	€ 0
Reisekosten für einmalige An- u. Abreise:	€ 120
Einschreibegebühr(en):	€ 59
Sprachkurs (Landessprache) Kursgebühr:	€ 30
Orientierungsprogramm:	€ 0
Sonstiges Erwähnenswertes:	
- _____	€
- _____	€
- _____	€
- _____	€

8. Studienjahreinteilung

Orientierung:	1 st week in Feb. 2012
Vorbereitender Sprachkurs:	January 2012
Beginn/Ende LV-Zeit 1. Semester/Term:	1.8.2011 – 31.1. 2012
Beginn/Ende LV-Zeit 2. Semester/Term:	1.2. 2012 – 31.7.2012
Beginn/Ende LV-Zeit 3. Term:	
Von obigen Daten abweichende Prüfungszeiten:	
Ferien:	