



RWTH Aachen University - An unforgettable exchange experience

Before departure

Germany is famous for its industry and technology in the world, and RWTH Aachen university is the one of the top universities in Germany. Learning and living in this environment can be definitely unforgettable, therefore when I saw this program, I applied it without any hesitation. I remember clearly that day when I got this exchange offer I was so excited that I told most friends about that news and posted this good news on my social media. I believed that this would be a precious experience in my life, which it is at the end.

Upon arrival

The schedule of Germany universities is different from KTH. In the winter semester, it starts on October and ends on March. Because of this, I could have enough time prepare all the things. I never thought that the whole things went so well and organized. From flight, housing and courses selection, I felt like I was so lucky. Also living in Aachen was really comfortable.

Financials

My exchange program is sponsored by Erasmus scholarship, which is totally enough to cover my expenses in Aachen (The living cost in Aachen is relatively lower than Stockholm). I appreciate for that very much.

Accommodation

For accommodation I have to say it's very difficult to live in their student studio. You need to wait and queue up. Some students cannot get the spot of a student room even if they wait for 2 semesters. But lucky for me I joined many chatting Wechat groups and found my apartment at the end. Getting useful information is very important.

University and studies

RWTH Aachen University is not like KTH which has a besieged campus, it constitutes of many institutes located in different places. Lectures, labs and exams are taken in these institutes.

Courses

Firstly, passing each course can only get 4 ECTS, which is much lower than KTH. This means that for the same credits during one semester, you have to take more courses. The reason is that students in Germany have the compulsory 6-month intern course, which is equal to 22 ECTS. Secondly courses are divided in normal lectures, which need to be passed and graded by exams. In addition to that, there are labs, projects and seminar courses to learn some special skill, like the FPGA lab course I selected and project course which can gain the practical experience. All these courses are taken in different institutes, and also, they provide many good opportunities to build your resume, like hiwi work.

City and country

Aachen is a small city compared to KTH. It has its own advantage, but I prefer Stockholm. Maybe that because I prefer big cities.

Leisure and social activities

People in Aachen love to play badminton. Every week you can always see many people gather in the badminton court and have fun. For me I prefer go to the gym instead of doing a certain sport. There was a street dance workshop organized by Aachen university students, which I joined and then I realized I was not suitable for that.

Sustainability

Taking the public transportation, walking or bikes is the best way in Aachen. In Aachen there are many alleys which you can only pass by bikes or on foot. This is one of the advantages of Aachen I think.

Other recommendations and observations

Germany is really a good place to study, especially for science and technology majors. However, not like Sweden, most programmes are taught by German. I think this is the biggest difficulty for international student to study here, moreover to work here.