

REPORT AL RIENTRO DELL'ESPERIENZA DI SCAMBIO - A.A. -

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Testo

My interest in the Bauhaus University dates back a long time ago. Back in secondary school I had to do a presentation about the ideals and principles of Bauhaus University. At that time, I was already fascinated about their way of thinking, teaching and how they are approaching design. Besides that, a friend of mine, who did his Master at the Bauhaus University two years ago, recommended Weimar for my Erasmus semester. He told me about the familiar atmosphere generally in Weimar and at the University. After that I knew without doubt, that I wanted to spend my semester abroad at the Bauhaus University.

One month before the official semester started the International Office of Bauhaus University organised the 'Welcome Weeks' for the new incoming students. During this four weeks, all the non-German speakers had to attend an English course in the morning. Since my mother tongue is German I didn't have to take part in that course. In the afternoons, evenings and at the weekends the international office organised various events, trips and parties for us. This preceding month allowed us students to get in contact with each other, find our ways through the city, the campus and making our new environment a home for those months ahead.

I started searching for a room six weeks before I went to Weimar. Since I know about the difficult housing market in Milan, I was a bit worried about finding something for just five month, but it turned out to be much more relaxed than in Italy. After searching on various websites for two days, I received three acceptances. I was in the lucky position to choose from three different apartments. At the end, I decided to take a shared apartment that was located close to the university (two walking minutes away from the main building). I lived there with three other girls from Germany, France and Russia. Two of the girls knew Weimar already, since they have been living there for two years. That turned out to be a big advantage, because they always knew what was happening around the city and they could even help me with administrative tasks.

Something, I want to point out is that I was overwhelmed by the range of opportunities students from the faculty of Art and Design have. I was so fascinated about the huge offer of courses we could choose from. For the project module, I went for a course called 'Plan B'. There I had the possibility to learn how to design and bind a book in a group of 20 students. The professor of this course was very dedicated and she really understood how to inspire us. Every week, she gave us a

theoretical input about something related to the topic of book design and she also brought some book samples for us to page through every time we met. Sometimes she even shared exemplars out of her own private library with us. After the 'official' part we always had the opportunity to present the work we had done the week before in front of the class. Since we were only 20 students the atmosphere in the group was always very constructive and familiar. Additionally, I appreciated the fact, that we always knew what our classmates were doing and how the work was going for them. At the end of the semester we had the chance to take part in the 'Summary'. It's the time, when every group presents the results of what they were doing during the year, to the public. It takes place around the city of Weimar, every group presents it in a different location. In this four days, the city transforms into one big exhibition space. And since every student invites friends and family for the 'Summary', Weimar is full of visitors and turns into an even more vibrant place.

Finally, I can recommend doing an exchange semester at the Bauhaus University in Germany to everyone. Since they organise the welcome weeks, you get to know the other exchange students and the city of Weimar even before the university officially starts. Besides that, it was quite easy to get in contact with the regular students. Due to the fact that all courses are organised in small groups with no more than 25 people, it isn't very hard to become friends with German students. The fact that the University and the city itself is quite manageable in terms of size, makes it very easy to settle in. Weimar might be a small place, but you can call it home even after a short period.

The international offices, both in Milan and in Weimar, were very supportive and helped me with all my questions and problems. The professors at Bauhaus University were always highly motivated and generously shared their knowledge with us. For all that I am more than grateful. Thank you all for making this unique experience possible!

Autorizzo al trattamento dei miei dati personali ai sensi del Decreto Legislativo n. 196/03 da parte del Politecnico di Milano.

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