

Istruzioni

Indicare di seguito tutte le informazioni che possano essere utili ad altri studenti che parteciperanno ad uno scambio. Preferibilmente in lingua inglese, lunghezza min. 2500 parole + possibili immagini, file di max. dimensione 2MB in formato PDF. Questo documento sarà pubblicato nel sito web della Scuola.

/ Instructions

Please indicate below any information that may be useful to other students taking part in an exchange. Preferably in English, length min. 2500 words + possible images, files of max. Dimension 2 MB in PDF format. This document will be published on the School's website.

Informazioni generiche / General informations

Anno Accademico di Scambio: 2020/2021
Academic Year of Exchange

Nome della Sede in scambio: NTNU
Name of the Exchange School

Cognome e Nome: Manara Carlotta
Surname and Name

Stato: Norway (precisely, Trondheim)
Country

Matricola: 941650
Registration

Codice Sede: N TRONDHE01
Exchange code

Corso di studio: Design and Engineering
Study course

Tipo di scambio: 6 - months Erasmus Experience
Type of exchange

Anno di corso: 2nd Year of Master Degree
Year of course

Semestre di scambio: Spring Semester
Exchange semester

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Docente promotore: Silvia Deborah Ferraris
Promoter

Racconta la tua esperienza di scambio / Tell us about your exchange experience:

It has been an amazing experience, both from a personal and academic point of view. I took part in a 6-months Erasmus Experience at Norges teknisk-naturvitenskapelige universitet, commonly known as NTNU, in Trondheim, Norway. My linked faculty, coming from a Master Degree in Design and Engineering, was Design and Architecture. In this short text, I'd like to talk about different aspects of my Erasmus Experience, in order to possibly help and support you in the decision-making process.

Academic path:

I followed four courses at NTNU: Design Studies, Structural Packaging Design, Visual Communication 4 and Information Visualization. **Design Studies** is a project course, held by Professor Andre Liem; the student is encouraged to take part in a contest, exhibition or research project, developing a new and innovative product. I decided to participate in an International Contest, called Future Lions 2021 in partnership with LEGO. I had to get in touch with a professor from NTNU, in order to find a supervisor for the product development. All the process is completely individual, starting from the concept to the final paper or delivery. The reviews are set up with the supervisor, depending on your needs. Talking about **Structural Packaging Design**, this course is also a project, developed individually. After few theoretical lessons, the students had to develop a new packaging for a norwegian company. We worked with UNIL, a well-known company for food packaging and I designed a packaging for the Fersk and Ferdig Collection (already prepared meals), commonly bought in the supermarkets. The final delivery is usually a presentation, a report and a prototype; the University has a laboratory with wood and metal industrial machines and Laser cutting. The graphic design was really important and the student had few reviews with a graphic designer. **Visual Communication 4** is a course from the Architecture faculty, mainly based on graphic design. The student has to design a graphical artefact (Portfolio, Booklet, Poster or other possibilities). At the beginning of the course, the lessons are based on theory, showing examples of graphical artefacts, modern ones and from the history of graphic design. The second half of the course is only based on reviews of the project. The professor is really kind and super helpful.

Information Visualization course is a theory course, a mixture of communication, graphic design and psychology. During the course, a lot of theory will be presented and the students are divided in groups in order to develop four projects (the last one is the main one and usually is linked to a real design task from the NTNU university). At the end of the course, there's a written exam, based on the academic book, slides and projects. The professor is great; the working level needed is pretty high, but worth it. You will be able to expand your knowledge on a completely new subject, never taught at Politecnico. In conclusion, I have to admit that I really liked all the courses from NTNU; the Design Studies and Information Visualization courses are my personal favorite, I can totally recommend them. The amount of work is not comparable to the stressful tasks of Politecnico, it's more relaxed and adequate. The communication between professors and students is great and the design tasks are challenging.

Housing:

Unfortunately, due to Covid, I was not able to get an accommodation in the student housing in Moholt, the university campus, but I had to search for a private accommodation in Trondheim. I was really lucky; I found a shared apartment with 5 other students near the city center (10 minutes by bus to go both to the city center and to the university in Gloschaugen). The bus stop was one minute by foot from the house; the accommodation was located in Breidablikveien, I can recommend this residential area. Near the city, but also near Bimarka, a well-known place for cross-country skiing. If you are searching for an accommodation in a student campus, the main one is Moholt but you have to wait for the university confirmation once you are accepted as an Erasmus Student. The private campuses are Voll Studentby, a little bit far away from the city center, but with good feedbacks and Rosenborg (I don't know so much about this one). The prices are usually from 4500 NOK to 6000 NOK per month for a room. I searched for a private apartment on Hybel.no and Finn.no, super useful links. A small advice: the area called Buran, near the Harbor is not good for an accommodation, especially during the night. Apart from that, Trondheim is a really safe city; I had no problem coming back at night or walking around alone.

Norwegian life:

In Norway, living expenses are high, starting from food to alcohol or going out for dinner. The main supermarkets are Rema, Bunnpris and Meny; Meny is the most expensive one but with high quality products. At Meny you can find Italian food, like Parmigiano, Tortellini Rana or other things, go there once in a while, it's worth it! About public transports, everything is through the Atb App (Atb Mobillett for tickets and Atb Reise for looking at timetables). It's better to buy the period tickets and not the single tickets, because you can get a student discount; I bought the 3-months ticket for around 1550 NOK and then the 2-months ticket for 1032 NOK and it was a good choice. The tickets are expensive, you can decide to buy it or not according to your accommodation; Trondheim is a small city, you can easily go around by bike or walking. Talking about bikes, Finn.no is a website also for second-handed products and you can find everything in there; I bought the cross-country equipment for a good price and I took everything back to Italy at the end of the Erasmus Experience. The NTNU Bumerang Association also rents equipment for free, from tents to skis, just order everything online on the website and pick them up at Moholt.

Things to do, absolutely:

At University, the NTNUI Koien Association rents Cabins near Trondheim for a weekend and you should definitely try them. They are without electricity and water, a real Norwegian adventure in the middle of nowhere, but it's worth it. For the types of cabins, check their website and for the booking, you have to go to the Akademika shop at NTNU on Wednesday/Thursday (I don't remember precisely) and wait in line. Quick reminder: In order to book a cabin, we went to university and 3 am in the morning and the Akademika shop opened at 8 am, so be prepared for a funny night with your friends! The Skansen area near the ocean is amazing for an happy-hour or a relaxing day with your friends; the Baklandet area is the most picturesque one. Moreover, check for the Northern Lights, they are absolutely stunning! The best months are February, March and April. A little piece of advice, if you will be able to travel all around Norway, during Easter or Summer Holidays, the Lofoten Islands are completely worth the long road trip to get there. A car is needed, because the public transports are not taken into account. Moreover, Tromsø is a good weekend trip during Winter and the Southern part of Norway, near Bergen and Stavanger, during Summer. If you are good hikers, Trolltunga is your goal. We were unlucky with the weather so we were not able to do it, but everyone said that was amazing. Nature in Norway is speechless.

Things to bring with you:

A sleeping bag, if you manage to fit it in the luggages, you will need it a lot; spikes to put on your shoes, in winter there's ice everywhere and it's easy to fall down on the ground; a warm waterproof outdoor jacket; snow shoes, in winter I always used them to go to university, the Dr. Martens are really slippery, don't wear them; warm wool tights to put them under your jeans for the coldest days.

Useful Apps:

Komoot, for finding hikes near Trondheim or everywhere; MazeMap, in order to find classrooms or study rooms at NTNU; SkiSporet, to find the cross-country tracks in Bymarka; My Aurora Forecast, to catch the Northern lights.

Firma / Signature:



Data / Date: 02.07.2021