

# Report about my Erasmus Semester in Tallinn, Estonia

## Application, Arrival and Accommodation

It got the information about Erasmus program in advance, so I had enough time to pick a university and apply. Everything proceeded quick and trouble-free. I was contacted by my Estonian university and they did everything for me. The International office of TUT doesn't have any special consultation-hour, feel free to contact them or drop by there when you have time. Before I set off, I have been contacted by a tutor from there. To get to Tallinn was easier than I thought; because you can fly by Ryan Air from Bremen (you know the prize level). Someone picked me up at the airport and brought me to the hostel (Academic hostel). The hostel was nice and directly at the campus. In general you share a room with somebody else (150 €). If you choose a single room, you pay ±250€/month. An apartment in the hostel has two rooms and a common kitchen, bedroom and toilet. A room includes 2 beds one big cupboard and a table. Nothing special but it is livable. The advantage of the hostel, which you can book in advance via the university, is, that you will get accommodation easily. Some students found an apartment or a room (200-300€) in the city center, since students from the hostel had to take every time the trolley to the city center (20 min). The public transport is quite cheap in Tallinn, a one way ticket costs 50 cents and monthly ticket 10 € or even less.



*Picture 1, The oldest student at the university Julius*

## **Study, Professors and Library**

The semesters are starting two or three weeks earlier than in Germany. But it wasn't a problem, because you have one month deadline to enroll in all your courses and even then you can do it, not on the internet but manual. The educational level I found not sophisticated and more than feasible. If credits are very important for you, I recommend you to check your lectures in first two weeks and enroll some other lectures if you won't like it. I recommend you also to enroll in English classes. The lessons were always very interesting with little grammar exercises and you will be surprised of the English level the Estonian students have. In many subjects I didn't have so much homework and usually it was easy manageable. The study general was comfortable because often you can postpone your deadlines and the exam per se. Just contact professors and you will shape it, in order to travel and attend many crazy parties and trips.



*The picture 2, The most famous people and rectors of the university*

The library is big and modern. You will have everywhere across the campus and elsewhere internet access (without any password). They have also some small rooms where it is possible to study alone and you can book it ahead. I did it at the beginning, but after you met and got to know so many people, you probably won't have time to spend in this 4 walls-box building. You can find all relevant

information in the library and the whole university in English. The university webpage is also completely in English, as well as many books in the library.



*The picture 3, The campus view*

### **Student life, trips and night life**

In summer semester 2012, Tallinn accommodated at least 250 Erasmus students. But I also met many students who were doing an internship in Estonia or which just came over for few days from Tartu to Tallinn. Tartu is the second biggest city in Estonia and has one of the oldest universities (est. in 1632) in Northern and Eastern Europe. It is quite cheap to travel in Estonia or to other countries around. If you book a bus in advance to Latvia, Lithuania and Saint-Petersburg you may pay between 5 and 15 €. I liked particularly trips to Estonia's islands. The country has around 1500 islands but only 19 are inhabited and they have around 1400 lakes. I recommend visiting Saaremaa Island. It is the biggest and the most beautiful island in this country.

ESN Tallinn will organize many trips and parties for you. You should definitely register for the Sea-Battle trip by ferry from Tallinn to Stockholm for 2 days with 2000 students from all north Baltic countries.

Night life in Tallinn was very active. Many students lived in the city center and went out almost every day. But even if you will live in the outskirts you can always catch a taxi (from city center to your hostel it cost 5-6 €). You will see

that everybody in the town speaks English and that it is easy to meet new people.

To sum up my experience, I would say that Tallinn/Estonia is a great place to spend your time and to make experiences that are totally different from our home country.



*The picture 4, Tallinn in the summer time*