



IT University Travel Report

Dear Student, this is a template - the aim is to inspire other students who may wish to follow in your footsteps. You are free to give your report the shape you want and to go beyond the questions, as long as you cover the information asked for below. You are also very welcome to include pictures and contact information - but you need not. Remember that the report will be made available on the intranet.

Host University: **TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF MUNICH**

Study Programme at IT

University : Exchange Agreement

or Study Abroad: Courses studied

abroad:

Exchange Period: semester (autumn/spring) **AUTUMN** year 18/19

If you wish to give advice to other students regarding your travels, please state your contact info here:

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Your stay abroad

What was it like to study at TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF MUNICH (including choice of courses, academic level, social life at campus)?

My winter semester at TUM has been a really interesting experience. From the academic point of view, TUM is a really good school with really good teachers and students, but the academic approach is a little bit different from the Danish one. I remember some of my friends from Denmark or the Netherlands have struggled a little bit with this new system of managing the course during the year and especially the examinations (usually the exam can be really short and without any open books). For me it was less of a shock because I have already experience with this kind of approach during my bachelor in Romania. During previous emails, the officials of TUM has also informed me really well about the school situation and how it would be the best way to register to the courses. My only suggestion would be to apply as soon as possible for a practical course. A course like this weights 10ECTS and the course work is spreader during all semester. It usually takes a lot of work and assignment, but this way the student will have less workload during the exams period. Also, a student can register to as many courses as possible and choose only at the end of the semester which exams he wants to attend from the registered courses.

From the social life point of view, I was really happy about the opportunities offered by the school. I have subscribed to the introductory week offered by the international student

organisation, TUMi, and there I got to meet a lot of other exchange students and really helpful tutors with whom I kept in contact during the whole semester. This was really helpful especially since after the course started, I did not have too much for socialisation and for meeting other people. Also, before I have arrived to Munich, I have applied to get a “buddy” who helped me with useful information about the city, campus and especially about the courses offered at my faculty. Also, another really useful opportunity was to be part of the sport organisation from TUM: ZHS. There is not too much information online on how to apply for this organisation and you have to do it in the beginning of the semester. Also, to get a spot in one of the courses offered by the sport organisation (volleyball, ping-pong, horse riding, wind surfing etc), the student should apply even before he gets a membership. For more information about this issue I would be more than happy to answer myself in case a future student wants to contact me. For better integration in the student life community, I also recommend one of the german classes offered by TUM. For a course like this the student would also make sure he respects the deadlines offered by the university.

What was your initial motivation for going abroad and did your stay meet your expectations?

My initial motivation for applying for a semester abroad was to develop my social skills, try a new experience and most important to get the chance to study to one of the most important engineering universities from Europe. I think I met all of my expectations. The semester has been really intense from the studying point of view. But I am really happy on my acquired skills and I manage to create a good balance between my academic and social life. I also think I have been a good ambassador for ITU.

Please describe what you got out of your stay, both personally and academically, and how do you expect it to contribute to your further studies?

From the academic point of view, I have got a good taste about how is to work on an enterprise project on one of the most important enterprise programming languages which is really popular towards big corporations in Germany: SAP ABAP. I also had the chance to expand my knowledge in my ITU specialisation field, which is business analytics. One of my courses, that unfortunately I have not passed, was called Machine Learning and it was most probably the most intense course I have ever done in my life. Even though I have not manage to pass the exam, I have learnt a lot from the academic curricula offered by this course and it offered my a good taste of how my professional life with evolve in case I decide to continue on this path. I have also experienced new academic techniques that have broadened my view over the IT field.

From the personal point of view, the exchange experience helped me evolve even more and helped me understand even better the life of an expat. I have got in contact with people from different nationalities and I made friends for life. It also offered my a new view on where I would like to continue with my life after my graduation.

Arranging your stay

Please give a short description of the process of arranging your stay:

I was lucky enough to get an accommodation in the most important student campus from Munich (Studenstadt). To get this place I had to respect all the deadline, apply as quick as possible for an accommodation (for which we have been warned that it is extremely hard to get a place in a dorm). Four weeks before the exchange started I have received an email from an official at TUM which sounded like this: "We can offer you an accommodation in one of our dorms in Munich. But you have to accept it NOW IN ANY KIND OF CONDITIONS, without knowing the location and the price. Also, the sooner you answer, to more chances you have to get a place because the system works on a first come first served based". I was lucky enough to see the email really quick and I answered immediately with yes. Soon I have received a contract and I got my room number only after I arrived in Munich. The room was individual and it had a kitchenette and about 14 m2 and the rent costed 270 euro, which was half price from a normal room in a shared apartment in Munich (most of the students rooms have this attributes). From the moment I have applied for the room until I got the key, I had really communication with the tutors from TUM who helped me with this situation. I would like to also mention that I was really lucky to get a room like this and most of the students struggle a lot with finding an accommodation. So in order to get such a room, I would recommend to future students to respect all their deadlines, to be patient and to constantly check their emails. I also recommend to travel to Munich in advance in case they want to find a share room in an apartment. The people from TUM will also mention this information in their emails.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

As I mentioned above, I was lucky enough to get a place in a dorm so I paid half of a price than a normal room in a shared apartment. I mostly ate from the school cantina (which is also quite cheap) and I bought food from supermarket. I also went out in some weekends and I have been to hiking and skiing trips. I would say I have spend approx 800-900 euros per month

Did you apply for scholarships and would you recommend any ones in particular?

No, I did not apply for other scholarships. But I have been working for my IT company in Denmark and I continued receiving SU.

Recommendations for other students:

I think I already wrote all my recommendations. I recommend to all students to try an exchange semester and I am really grateful that I had this opportunity. So if anybody has any questions about my experience in Munich, I am more than happy to be contacted about this issue.

MIRCEA MURASAN