

**“Wish I’d Known” Survey  
Hessen, Germany  
(Kassel, Frankfurt, & Marburg)**

**PACKING AND TRAVELING**

*Specifically, what kind of LINENS did you need to bring?*

- None for Kassel, a towel for Marburg

*What are you glad you packed from home?*

- A small photo album with pictures of my home, close friends and family members, Swiss army knife (in checked luggage)

*What do you wish you had left at home?*

- Extra pair of glasses

*Do you have any travel tips to pass on (planning advice, safety considerations, guidebooks, train vs. bus, etc.)?*

- Really try to search the Internet for train prices and decide if you’ll save money with a Eurorail pass. Don’t think Ryan Air is all it’s cracked up to be.

*What places would you advise future students to see and why?*

- Venice—beautiful, very different atmosphere, great weather. Paris—beautiful and not as intimidating as I thought it would be. East Europe, especially Prague—beautiful and inexpensive.

**MONEY AND COMMUNICATIONS**

*How much money in U.S. currency would you recommend students have at their disposal for their whole time abroad?*

- It really depends...I went a bit overboard, but don’t regret it at all. Try not to limit yourself too much because of money. I can’t remember any place that I wished I hadn’t spent the money on.

*How much money did you have in foreign currency when you left for your program?  
Was it enough?*

- NA

*How did you manage your money (credit cards, traveler’s checks, bank accounts etc.)?  
How and where did you access your money?*

- Credit card (after you get back, watch for offers of 0% APR on transfer balances to new cards) ATM card is a must, and I had some traveler’s checks, but didn’t use all of them.

*How much money did you spend on books?*

- 70 euros (but these were just books that I wanted)

*How did you communicate with the U.S.? What would you recommend to future students (e.g. calling card, set up e-mail account and where, etc.)?*

- Target calling card. Make sure you get the international toll free numbers before you leave.

## **SCHOOL WORK**

*How did your academic experience abroad differ from your U.S. experiences concerning:*

Relations with professors/Classroom Instruction?

- I felt more intimidated by them, but they were all willing to work with you.

Grading?

- I didn't feel like grades were as important.

Study habits?

- I wasn't sure how to study sometimes, so I would study everything. But I didn't spend all or even the majority of my time studying.

Library?

- I didn't take the time or effort to familiarize myself with the library.

Computer Access?

- It was okay. Computer labs are always very hot though.

Other

*What enabled/hindered your successful academic experience?*

- Don't get in the habit of skipping. Pay attention to the material.

## **SOCIAL LIFE**

*How did you meet students from your host country?*

- They were volunteers for the program or were in my classes (in Kassel).

*How did you like to spend your free time and why? Is there anything you regret not doing more of in your free time?*

- Seeing the city with other students, shopping, walking, and relaxing.

*What opportunities for social, recreational, and cultural events that the host university or program offered did you like the best? Why?*

*What piece of advice would you give future students regarding their non-academic life while abroad?*

- Be careful. Please think about how you are representing your school, state, and country.

### **CULTURAL ISSUES**

*Are women treated differently in your host country than in the U.S.? If so, what advice would you pass on to women who are thinking of studying in your host country?*

- Yes, but do not change the way you act. Just be careful and think before you do things.

*Are minorities—racial, religious, sexual identity—treated differently in your host country than in the U.S.? If so, what advice would you pass on to members of any minority group that are thinking of studying in your host country?*

### **OTHER COMMENTS**

- Have fun! Try new things. It goes by very fast.