

**“Wish I’d Known” Survey
Oldenburg, Germany**

PACKING AND TRAVELING

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

- All bed sheets for a single bed and pillow case

What are you glad you packed from home?

- Office supplies. Bring adapters and converters for electricity. Discman, toiletries, jeans and good walking shoes.

What do you wish you had left at home?

- Nothing

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

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

- Italy—the whole country is beautiful. Take a train—the whole ride is breathtaking
- Amsterdam—a must see
- Copenhagen—friendliest people in the world

MONEY AND COMMUNICATIONS

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

- If you plan to travel a lot—\$6000 (for a semester)

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

- None, I got it at the Frankfurt airport. Take traveler’s checks because U.S. counterfeiting is a scare for German banks

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

- All purchases on credit card and spending money from ATM

How much money did you spend on books?

- Less than \$20

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.)?

- E-mail and phone—rates are cheap!

SCHOOL WORK

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

Relations with professors/Classroom Instruction?

- German professors are less personal and assume that you know what they are talking about. They are not willing to help much unless it is their office hours.

Grading?

- Pass/Fail—there is one big test at the end

Study habits?

Library?

Computer Access?

- If possible, bring a computer. Internet access is available in dorms.

Other?

What enabled/hindered your successful academic experience?

- Go to class—it really helps and even though it is not required, the Profs notice and are more willing to help.

SOCIAL LIFE

How did you meet students from your host country?

- Through other Americans or class

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

- With friends or a nice book in English

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

- The university had Uni Parties and they were fun.

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

- Make friends with other Americans because it makes life a lot easier—less homesickness!

CULTURAL ISSUES

Are woman 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?

- No, not much—but when traveling to other countries like Italy, Spain, and Turkey for example, travel with others.

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?

- Not that I noticed.

OTHER COMMENTS

- There are a lot of friends to be made from all over the world. Keep an open mind to new things and you will have a lot better time spending time with people from all over the world.