

Inès ARFAOUI
2018-2019

My Erasmus experience in Düsseldorf



Country of origin : France

School/University : ESIEE Paris

Year of internship : 2019

I am Inès Arfaoui a French engineering student from the school ESIEE Paris. I came to Düsseldorf to do a three-month internship in the Center of Flow Simulation which is a part of the Hochschule Düsseldorf (University of Applied Science). In this little report, I will share with you my experience in Düsseldorf and introduce you some interesting information about your life in this city.

A/ Find an accommodation

Finding an accommodation is the hardest thing in the process, you have to start the researches as soon as possible.

First, you can find a place in the student dormitory (called « Studierendenwerk » in German). It's the cheapest accommodation you could find in Düsseldorf but there is not enough place for everyone. Then, you have the other types of accommodation (private one, apartment-sharing, private residence, etc.). You can find a lot of resources in this detailed guide « Finding accommodation in Düsseldorf » :

https://www.hs-duesseldorf.de/prospectivestudents/exchangestudents/Documents/Handbook_Finding%20accomodation%20in%20Duesseldorf.pdf

I have heard about two online estate agencies too, specialized in short-term stays : « MWZ 24 » (<https://www.mwz24.de/>) and « Home Company Immobilien » (<https://www.hc-duesseldorf.de/>). Also, you can use the App Airbnb for short stays, it's faster to research but it's expensive. For all your researches, you should call rather than sending emails.

In my case, Mrs. Michaela Petri, the responsible of the International Office helped me to find a place in the student dormitory. She does everything in order to help you and I want to thank her so much for that.

B/ Public transportations

When you start your period in the Hochschule, you will receive a Student Card which is also your transportation card. You can use it to travel unlimited in almost all the North Rhine-Westphalia. So, you can use the Buses, the Trams, the U-bahn, the S-bahn, the RE and RB trains but you can't use the high-speed trains.

You can also use your card to transport someone else in the VRR zone, only during the week-end or in the week between 19h and midnight.

C/ Meals and foods

For lunch, you can eat at the university canteen, called the «Mensa» where you can find a lot of choices (main dish, soup, fruits and vegetables, pizza, salad, etc.). If you don't want to eat in the canteen, you can eat outside or bring your own meal.

For the other dishes or in general, it's so simple to find foods in Düsseldorf. You have many restaurants where everyone ends up finding what suits its taste or diet plan. If you want to cook, you

can find ingredients in different supermarkets like Lidl, Aldi, Rewe, Netto, Edeka or Kaufland that you will find easily around you.

D/ Student life and events in Düsseldorf

In my mind, Düsseldorf is a very nice place to live. It's a big city where you can find everything, it's well served by public transports and has a lively city center (until late in the evening). There, you will not find a stressful atmosphere and a lot of people speak English so you will be not lost if you can't speak German.

➤ Some interesting spots in Düsseldorf

There are many places to visit in Düsseldorf like the district of « Altstadt », THE crucial address to go. It's known as the most lively place in the city, for its historic architecture and its lovely view of the Rhine. Also, you have two big shopping streets ; the Schadowstraße with affordable prices and the Königsallee with luxury stores. I recommend you to visit the Rheinturm which is the TV tower of the city. At the top, you will see a beautiful view of Düsseldorf and the cities around.

There are lots of other places to visit, I just gave you some examples.



Altstadt by the Rhine

➤ Student life

In Düsseldorf, there are many university campuses, so the student life is so rich and interesting, especially for international students. The Hochschule Düsseldorf has its own International Office which organizes visits and events only for their students.

Also, you have two big organizations for international students in all Düsseldorf. You have the « ESN Düsseldorf Erasmus / Exchange 201X/201X » that you can join on Facebook. They organize lots of student events like parties, competitions and trips for a very low price. They also organize a weekly

meeting in a bar to meet and speak to the other international students. The other association is « Internationals in Düsseldorf », that you can join on Facebook too. They mainly organise one-day trips with a very low price in many cities (Amsterdam, Heidelberg, etc.). Those two clubs gives you opportunities to meet people and befriend people from all over the world. It was so interesting to discover different countries and different cultures. They also can help you if you need help (accommodation, trip, etc.)

➤ Events in Düsseldorf

There are some annual events in Düsseldorf, for example the Japan Day (in May) organised every years in the Japan district and ending by a firework. Also, there is the « Rheinkirmes » fair organised in July, starting and ending by fireworks. A lot of other events are organised every year, so don't miss them.

E/ Trips

During my stay, I had the opportunity to travel in many cities around Düsseldorf. I went to Heidelberg with the association « Internationals in Düsseldorf » where I met a lot of people.

I took the opportunity of the unlimited use of the student card to travel to many cities around Düsseldorf like **Cologne, Bonn, Aachen and Essen**. You have lots of other interesting cities where you can go "for free". For example, with your card you can go until two cities in Holland : Arnhem and Venlo.

F/ My internship in the Center of Flow Simulation

I came to the Center of Flow Simulation to do an internship about the subject of Renewable Energy thanks to a partnership with my school. We were received by Mr. Ali Cemal Benim the responsible of the center and Mrs. Tuba Atalay his assistant. They were so friendly and ready to help you if you have a problem and I want to thank them. My internship tutor was Mr. Michael Diederich. I have worked on a tidal power plant project and he was so available for any question and for helping us and I thank him so much. I am so grateful to all of them for the very rewarding experience I have lived.

I hope this report will be useful to you. If you have any question, do not hesitate to contact me on my personal LinkedIn : www.linkedin.com/in/inès-arfaoui