



## Erasmus+ in Osnabrück A report by Mihar El-Shamaa

### ***Why did you choose Osnabrück?***

As part of my 3rd year degree, I was required to study abroad or do work experience. I chose to study abroad, and particularly in Osnabrück due to the efficiency of the website. This was my first introduction into the university, and unlike other websites I had looked at, Osnabrück University had a clear and easily accessible website, with efficient information for its incoming students. One of the most attractive elements was an entire section that provided affordable and livable accommodation. I was able to sort my accommodation before I'd even left the country. Furthermore, if I needed more specific information regarding my course, I was able to reach out to the international office who answered all my queries or redirected me to the relevant people. They went above and beyond and truly were a big reason why the transition was so seamless. It is difficult to choose a place to study abroad, because at the end of the day all you have to primarily rely on is the university website, it eased my nerves, and let me know that those involved in setting it up cared for the incoming students.

What may seem like a small reason in the grand scheme of reasons why I chose Osnabrück, was actually the most important one of all.

### ***Travel, Arrival***

I travelled to Osnabrück from Ireland. I booked a flight on RyanAir to Frankfurt and got a train ticket well in advance using the Deutsche Bahn app with a transfer in Essen. Overall, the trip took longer than was necessary. I would recommend a train from Hamburg or Cologne/Bonn.

You can find places that are nearer like Dortmund or Bremen but not all airlines fly there. For me Hamburg is the best option, it takes about 3 hours, and once you get your semester ticket you can travel there for free, which really cuts down on costs when travelling home for the holidays etc.

### ***School of Law – University of Osnabrück***

My first in person introduction to Osnabrück University was through the Pre-Language Intensive course. It took place in mid-September, and lasted 3 weeks, with the total cost being 375 euro. I would highly recommend it, even if you are already proficient in German, as it is a brilliant way to meet people, and connect before the semester has even begun. It consists of classes during the day and activities in the evening, and with the number of things that are planned, it is well worth the money. It's jam-packed for 3 weeks, which is a brilliant way to get you out and about, especially in those first few weeks when you don't know anything or anyone.

Once semester had started, I took modules which belonged to the FFA program, an additional set of international law subjects offered to German students in multiple languages, like French, Spanish, English and many more. I did all my subjects in English. Two of my favourite modules were American constitutional law and British constitutional law.

The lectures were enjoyable and allowed me to study subjects I would have otherwise never had the opportunity to. The lectures too were brilliant, they were able to take such dense topics and break them down in a way that was easy to understand but also were interesting. They too were extremely helpful when it came to any questions I had, and kind and accommodating when I had any issues with navigating the German education system.

### ***The City – Student Life***

Osnabruck is a very student-friendly city! With the university being in the center, and several student accommodations scattered around the city, it caters to college students. It also has a pretty decent nightlife, pubs are great with a lot of different options, and though the clubs are great, you are somewhat limited.

The great thing about that though is that you can travel around Lower Saxony (and other parts like Hamburg) for free! I got to explore some pretty great cities over the course of my year here. It motivates you to travel regularly to places you may have otherwise never visited. Additionally, if you are living in student accommodation, there are always events for students, and even some set up specifically for international students.

The Mensa, which is the student canteen, is incredible. Coming from a university that did not have this option, it was amazing to see sustainable food for ridiculously affordable prices, it's also just a wonderful place to hang out, particularly during summer at the schloss.

### ***Overall feedback***

Osnabruck University is a great choice, it is a university that cares for its students and attempts to make things easier for students where they can. The students are welcoming and genuinely friendly, and it is a great city with a lot of heart and vibrance, that is enjoyable but not overwhelming.

I would recommend looking into Osnabruck as an Erasmus option.

Ps: Also, everything is closed on Sundays, I wish I had known that before