

 | MSc in Economics | University of Geneva, Switzerland (Exchange)

The experience of Swiss- EU Mobility programme has been a highlight of my master's degree from Freiburg. I began searching for universities from the list prescribed by the Erasmus office in the international office who suggested me to look into the official University of Freiburg website. I chose University of Geneva in specific as it was in tandem with my career aspirations to work for the United Nations and the HQ is in Geneva.

One of the main differences with the German study system is the flexibility and practical approach to course. All the course was practically applicable in life compared to the elective options that were offered by University of Freiburg. Secondly, the semester is spread out evenly so that students face less stress. The semester begins mid-September which is different to German system that begins in mid-October. There is a reading week in middle of November where there won't be any classes so that students can catch up with modules and a small exam depending on module. The most significant difference is that 'Open Book exam' where students would not need to remember the formula as we are allowed to carry a A4 page with formula. So, the student learns practically to apply the formulas and understand the core of the intuition rather than memorising them and forgetting the Alpha/Beta in the exam. This was the main drawback of the German system. Also, the semester begins early in September as previously mentioned and end in May. This gives a gap of 3 months in summer for the student to be able to travel or to pursue internship which is advantageous for a person who opts for exchange which is not the case with German semester system.

Since the day of arrival, the administrative bodies and student initiatives have been fairly smooth. There is an induction week which provides precise support to settle in. Also, the University provides with 440 CHF each month which covered my accommodation costs in Hugo-de-Senger residence here. I approached the accommodation website offered by the University. The student village is the 'Cite' but the closest and the cheapest accommodation is the 'Hugo-De-senger' residence. The main student initiatives are ESN (Erasmus student Network) which provides social opportunities and trips around Switzerland to expose the mobility students to the culture.

Account opening is supported by the international office in the induction week who help in smooth transition. The university has a tie up with the UBS and student open account there.

The cost of living is mainly depending on the accommodation as it takes half of your budget.

Accommodation varies from – (450 CHF- 850 CHF)

Insurance (AOK – Germany) – (115 CHF)

Food expenses (250 CHF)

Phone – (25 CHF)

Overall expenses for a month (750 CHF-1350 CHF)

I do not have experience in public transport as I used to walk to the University. But there is a monthly transport pass that can be bought for the tram line.

Thank you

Kind Regards

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