

REPORT

**Joint Study Exchange Semester
University of Ljubljana
FELU – Faculty of Economics
Ljubljana University of Ljubljana**



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1. INTRODUCTION

In the course of my studies (Master International Management) I did a mandatory exchange semester from September 2013 till the end of February 2014 at the FELU – Faculty of Economics - University of Ljubljana. The winter semester at the university starts at the 1st of October but the university organized an orientation week for all incoming exchange students at the end of September. During the orientation week we got all useful and important information regarding the exchange semester and courses. Moreover we had an international dinner where we got to know all international students and everybody had to represent his country. We even got a surprise for the best country representation, and my group - all students from Austria (Vienna, Innsbruck, Salzburg etc.) - was one of the winners. ☺

I did not have any problems during my whole stay, prior arrival, or while settling down. After my application I got a folder from the FELU with all information needed. There have not been many open questions or problems that raised during my stay, because the university really made sure that we had a pleasant stay.



2. MONEYED INTERESTS

Arrival to Ljubljana

You can reach Ljubljana by plane, train, bus or car. The easiest and cheapest way for me was to arrive at Ljubljana by car. I had to pay € 90 for a “vignette”, the petrol costs and parking costs. As travelling by car is the cheapest way to get around in Ljubljana and especially Slovenia it was good for me to have a car. Other students often rented cars (with help of the university) to get around. Parking at the guarded university parking lot was very cheap for students of the FELU and was just € 1.80 per day.

Housing

Finding an accommodation in Ljubljana was not very hard for me. The university and the student organisation help a lot with it. For a private accommodation in the centre of Ljubljana I had to pay € 400 per month including additional costs like water, heating, and Internet. My apartment was very close to the university and I could reach it either by foot or by car within minutes.

Language course

As I was not studying at University of Ljubljana via the ERASMUS program, but via the Joint Study program, I was not allowed to take the intensive ERASMUS language course, which took place before the official beginning of the exchange semester (in August/September). The university organized a language course for all other students. Students were divided into groups of Slavic and non-Slavic origin. This Slovene language course was held during the whole exchange semester and consisted of two units per week, each 2 hours (4 hours per each week). I had to register for this course and to pay € 120. After having fulfilled the criteria (eg. attendance, homework) and successfully having passed the test, students got 3 ECTS credits for this course.

Parking

In the city you have to pay for most of the parking places, ranging from 40 Cent till € 1 for 1 hour. Outside the city centre parking needs to be paid in the time between 6 or 7 am till 16 or 17 o'clock, is cheaper and costs usually about 40 Cent.

Provisions

In general I think the sustainment costs in Slovenia are a bit lower than in Austria and there are much more offers and discounts for students. Additional costs include groceries and dining out in the cafeteria or restaurants. Going out for dinner or lunch is much cheaper than in Austria and there are way more different possibilities.

3. HOUSING

The FELU provided a brochure and tips for finding suitable accommodations (dorms and private housing options). The tutors as well as the international office offered all the important information prior arrival. For me it was quite easy to find a private accommodation, as I know some people from Slovenia, so they could help me to find a suitable room. I had no problems regarding noise, internet or sanitary installations as I had my own room and bathroom. The area where I lived was very well located and safe. There were grocery and other stores right next to it and public transport connections in front of the door.

4. COURSES

English requirements

The University of Ljubljana requires that students have very good language skills, so I had to send them together with my application a certificate proofing my English language skills. After having proofed my English skills I was officially enrolled and got an enrolment confirmation of the FELU.

Course enrolment

The course registration was quite different from Austria. Students can enrol for courses just in a given period of time, which lasts for a few weeks. At the FELU you have to choose your courses in July, without knowing the timetable. In October you get the timetable of the courses and you then have a week time to re-choose your courses in case they overlap or you were not accepted to a course. When the registration started, I got an E-mail from the international office including a course catalogue with all available courses (in English).

Exchange students are allowed to take max. 30 ECTS credits. In October I thought that I have to rearrange my primary course choice again because courses were overlapping, but I was lucky (in my case) and the timetables changed. Some courses have a limited number of participants, so you have to be quite fast with choosing your courses, because the one who comes first serves first. It was not hard to choose the courses, because every course was described in detail and my tutor as well as the international office could help me with some questions I had.

I have taken the following courses:

- Slovene Language Course 3 ECTS
- Socio-Economic development 6 ECTS
- English Languages in Business and Economics 6 ECTS
- Operations Management 6 ECTS
- Theory of Corporate Finance 7 ECTS

Each course was held twice a week (each 4 hours per week) and divided in a lecture and a seminar part. Students were required to be present at all courses. The workload of the courses comprised a written seminar paper, presentations, mid and end term exams.

5. CONTACT

TUTOR

Every exchange student, including me got a Slovenian student as a tutor/buddy. My tutor Špela contacted me already in June, some months before the semester abroad, and gave me all the needed information for my arrival and student life in Slovenia. I was in contact with her during my whole exchange semester. Moreover the tutors of all exchange students regularly organised some events and get-togethers for all exchange students, which was really great. Although there were nearly 200 exchange students from more than 30 countries doing an exchange at the FELU, the tutors and the university did really a great job. All students have been informed regularly about everything happening in Slovenia or at the University by the tutors either by mail or via Facebook. A special Facebook group for all exchange students was created where everything was published and all students (international and Slovene) could stay in contact.

International Office

The international office and particularly Ms. Alma Elezovic was a big help from the beginning on (application) and always in an intensive contact with students. One could ask her everything and she was always willing to help. She informed the students about all important facts during the whole semester.

6. CONCLUSION

The semester aboard at the FELU Ljubljana was an amazing experience. The university courses were very good and I really learned a lot. Even though some courses were really time intensive and had a lot of workload I am glad that I have chosen the FELU and got the chance to experience Business education at a higher level. I had a lot of positive experiences within Slovenia and during the exchange semester as well as the university. I am sure, that I will benefit from learning of the Slovene language during this semester in the future and the intensive finance courses will be useful both for my master theses and for my future education and work. Moreover I learned many things about another culture and enjoyed living there. To conclude it was a unique experience at a very good university which I could recommend to everybody who is interested in Slovenia and Business.

