

Experience report of a Finnish "InterAct!" scholarship recipient.



Picture 1. Picture of Wolfenbuttel square in summer (Henning Kramer, wolfenbuttel.de)

As an exchange student to Wolfenbüttel, Germany for Ostfalia Hochschule, I can confidently say that my experience has been nothing short of amazing. From the beautiful scenery to the welcoming people, my time in Germany has been an unforgettable one that I will cherish for the rest of my life.



Picture 2. Picture of Ostfalia campus Am Exer in Wolfenbuttel with in-campus housing for student and a great library. (studycheck.de)

One of the best things about my exchange experience in Wolfenbüttel was the opportunity to learn about the German culture and language. Coming from a different part of the world, it was exciting to experience a completely different culture and way of life. I had the opportunity to interact with locals, attend cultural events and learn the language, which has not only expanded my knowledge but also enriched my experience.

One of the other amazing aspects of my exchange experience at Ostfalia was the financial support I received. The university provided me with a scholarship that covered a significant portion of my expenses, including tuition fees, accommodation, and travel expenses. This support made it easier for me to focus on my studies and enjoy my experience without worrying about finances.



Picture 3. 3 most well-known cuisine of Germans and is my favourite during the time in Wolfenbuttel.

And speaking of enjoying my experience, I cannot forget to mention the delicious food and drink in Germany. While in Wolfenbüttel, I had the opportunity to try some of the local delicacies, including sausages, pretzels, and beer. It was fascinating to learn about the different types of sausages and beers and the cultural significance they hold in Germany. I also had the opportunity to attend traditional German festivals like Oktoberfest and learn more about their culture and customs.

Furthermore, the exchange program at Ostfalia also provided me with the opportunity to experience the German study and working culture. I was able to intern at a local company and learn about the work environment in Germany, the work ethics, and the professional culture. This experience gave me a unique insight into the working life in Germany and helped me develop essential skills that will be valuable in my future career.

Another highlight of my exchange was the academic experience. Ostfalia Hochschule is known for its exceptional academic programs, and I was fortunate enough to study under some of the best professors in my field. The curriculum was challenging, but I was able to learn so much in a short period of time. It was also a great opportunity to meet fellow students from different parts of the world and learn from their perspectives.

Living in Wolfenbüttel was also a great experience. The town is known for its rich history and beautiful architecture, and it was amazing to be able to explore it. I was able to visit the famous Herzog August Bibliothek and learn about the town's history through its museums and landmarks. I also enjoyed the town's vibrant nightlife and the various outdoor activities like hiking and biking.

Finally, one of the most significant benefits of my exchange was personal growth. Living in a new environment, away from my comfort zone, allowed me to develop independence, resilience and adaptability. I learned to embrace new experiences and meet new people, which has greatly impacted my personal growth and development.

However, the exchange is not kind to non-German speaker. Wolfenbuttel is a relatively small town and making friends is harder than other bigger places, thus, a fluent German skill is rather useful, you can take part in courses offered by Wolfenbuttel town online, even before exchanging to sharpen your knowledge. Nevertheless, it is essential to double check with every professors of your course content and language required before accepting, as after the pandemic, the number of course is lowered and some is only offered in German entirely.

In conclusion, my experience as an exchange student to Wolfenbüttel, Germany for Ostfalia Hochschule was an incredible journey that I will always cherish. It offered me a unique opportunity to learn about the German culture, expand my academic knowledge and skills, explore a new environment, and grow as an individual. I highly recommend studying abroad to anyone who has the opportunity.