

RESOCONTO AL RIENTRO DELL'ESPERIENZA DI SCAMBIO 2011/2012

_Cognome	Plaum
_Nome	Brian
_Matricola	764916
_Anno di corso	2.LM
_Corsi di studi	PRODUCT SERVICE SYSTEM DESIGN
_Sezione	PS1
_e-mail	bplaum@gmail.com
_Sede di scambio	362739
_Stato	
_ID ERASMUS (per sedi in EU)	
_Semestre svolto all'estero	2°

Testo

My experience at the Universität der Künste in Berlin was an overall very positive for various reasons. The UdK is a school which gives a lot of freedom to their students. The courses offered are very unique and challenging. The facilities available to the student were excellent and the administration staff was very helpful.

The professors know students are there because they want to be and thus let them determine how little or how much work they are responsible for. The students take one "Main Project" each semester which acts as his/her main studio course. These courses change each semester depending on the interests of the professors and are presented to the students on the first day of class each semester. The professors give basic guidelines for the students to develop a project and they meet with the professor once a week or every two weeks to talk about their ideas. At first I found this freedom to be difficult and I was often lost, however, by the end of the semester I realized the benefit of this style and was able to maximize my time and productivity based on my own schedule.

The main project that I attended was taught by a guest professor, something that commonly happens at UdK. While the courses are mostly taught in German, often times courses with guest professors are taught in English. However, my friends in other main projects told me that knowing German wasn't vital as the professors all speak English and will do the reviews in English if you ask them to. My course was called the Extranational Style and it was about a really challenging course consisting of a series of workshops on different themes, questioning the students to develop projects that push the boundaries of design towards artistic expressions. I thoroughly enjoyed this class and it really gave me a lot of freedom to do things that I normally wouldn't have the opportunity to do.

My Erasmus experience was also really positive as I found Berlin has a lot to offer to young people in the city. There are many interesting museums and artist studios that you can visit. The city is filled with young people and is incredibly affordable. Public transportation is very efficient, however, the city is also very bike friendly. The night life has something to offer everyone, and there is a strong international presence in Berlin.

The most difficult thing I found in my experience was that the student life at the University was a bit closed. Although all the students spoke English, they seemed very serious with their work and didn't have a strong community as a student body. They were not so interested in meeting the Erasmus students and rarely included us in conversations. However, through the German language course offered by the university it was easy to make friends with the other international students. The university also organized various events for the Erasmus students, such as a bunker tour, a trip to Potsdam among other things that were really fun.

Overall I would highly recommend an Erasmus experience in Berlin at UdK. The school is very progressive and creative and the city is unique and amazing. I was very satisfied with my experience and cannot wait to revisit the city.

Autorizzo al trattamento dei miei dati personali ai sensi del Decreto Legislativo n. 196/03 da parte del Politecnico di Milano.

Firma_____