

Year Abroad in Hamburg. Academic Year 08/09

Name: Leanne M.

Subject: Mathematics (Bachelor)

Semester: 5 & 6

Home University: University of Southampton

I've had a really great time studying in here, and I'd definitely recommend it to anyone who's even half considering it! Erasmus is a really worthwhile and fun experience and Hamburg with its multitude of pretty parks & canals, and infamous clubs & bars was a brilliant city to spend it in. I won't lie, the maths wasn't always easy, but the maths department are very helpful with organising and supporting you during your stay (even organising someone to meet you at the station/airport when you first arrive and help you with various other organisational bits and pieces).

There are free German language courses offered for Erasmus students both before and during the semester as well as subject specific extra courses for all foreign students. It is advisable to be able to speak at least some German before you get here, but don't worry if not, there are plenty of people willing to practice their foreign language skills and if you can speak a decent level of English then you won't have any trouble getting by.

The maths department were also very helpful in arranging accommodation in a university hall of residence, which too comes highly recommended. It's a great way to meet people and there are various things on offer for your free time (such as bikes to rent, canoes you can borrow, the bar, a pool room etc). Erasmus is a great way to meet friends from all over the world, to improve your language skills and to just try something that little bit different. I'm yet to meet anyone here in Hamburg who wishes they hadn't taken part!