

My experience as an Erasmus+ exchange student in Stavanger, Norway was one of the best experiences I have ever had. As an international student in Norway, I was able to find community and home in a beautiful city surrounded by nature. I was able to go on many different hikes and trips to enjoy all that this region has to offer, and even took a trip to the north of Norway to witness the magic of the northern lights during the winter season.

The University of Stavanger recently opened a new building for their students, which provided a comfortable and lively place for us to socialize as well as study together. There were many events that took place free of charge for the students, sometimes offering food and drinks, and always giving students a chance to meet other students from all over the world and different walks of life.

The city of Stavanger, though small, offered many opportunities throughout the months I have spent here, including community celebrations such as the 900 year-anniversary of the city, with live music and performances across the city center. Situated close to the water, the center is a beautiful and exciting place to visit. I also took advantage of the ferries that are included within the monthly bus ticket, and did my best to visit as many islands as I could throughout my semester here.

The main challenge that I faced was the high cost of living in Stavanger and the long wait time to receive my residence permit, meaning I was unable to work for the majority of my time here. Groceries are quite expensive and going out to eat was impossible. Although it is a great place to live, it can be certainly inaccessible for many people who do not have a Norwegian salary, such as myself.

All in all, however, I greatly enjoyed my time in Stavanger. I met amazing people, had great classes, and visited incredible places. I will definitely be returning to Stavanger in the future, and am grateful for the opportunity that Erasmus+ gave me to study here for the spring semester!