

## **Erasmus+ Exchange Experience: A Semester of Growth in Stavanger, Norway**

### **Preparation and Application Process**

Embarking on my second semester abroad through the Erasmus+ program was both an exciting and structured journey. As part of my master's program at Carl von Ossietzky University in Oldenburg, Germany, spending a semester at the University of Stavanger (UiS) was a mandatory and enriching component of my studies.

The application process was smooth, thanks to the established partnership between the two universities. While no separate admission was required, I still needed to complete the necessary enrollment steps at UiS. For the Erasmus+ scholarship, I submitted an online learning agreement outlining my selected modules and credit hours, which was approved by both my home and host institutions. By the end of November 2024, I received confirmation of my funding—a significant milestone that set the stage for my upcoming adventure.

### **Seamless Transition: Travel and Settlement**

Relocating to Norway was surprisingly hassle-free. The university's administration provided exceptional support, securing my accommodation in advance through SIS Housing. By the time I departed Germany in mid-January 2025, I already had a signed housing contract and my Erasmus+ initial payment (70% of the grant), which allowed me to cover my rent immediately upon arrival.

I traveled by FlixBus, arriving in Stavanger on January 18th. The efficient local bus system (Kolumbus) made it easy to reach my student dorm at Mosvangen Camping, where my keys were ready for pickup. The entire check-in process was seamless, reflecting the well-organized support system for international students.

### **Academic Experience: Structured, Engaging, and Enriching**

Classes began on January 20th, with the first week dedicated to orientation—introducing us to the campus, library, and administrative teams. The academic structure was both rigorous and dynamic, blending formal coursework with supplementary workshops, guest lectures, and field visits. Highlights included:

**Interactive learning:** Modules were complemented by hands-on experiences, including NGO volunteering with Caritas and visits to historical Viking sites.

**Research-intensive assessments:** Each course culminated in a research paper, fostering deep engagement with the material. To ensure fairness, external evaluators graded our submissions.

**Diverse perspectives:** Guest professors enriched the curriculum with insights beyond the standard syllabus, broadening our academic horizons.

I successfully completed four modules (EMM021, EMM222, EMM224, and EMM226), with grades already received for two—87 in Migration, Borders, and Security (EMM222) and 85 in Migration, Gender, and Work (EMM224). The remaining grades will be finalized by June.

### **Life in Norway: Adventure, Community, and Cultural Exchange**

Norway exceeded my expectations—both in its breathtaking landscapes and its high cost of living! Despite the expenses, the warmth of the people and the vibrant social scene made it an unforgettable experience. From karaoke nights and hiking trips to exploring Stavanger's nightlife, every moment was filled with joy and connection.

The ease of communication (thanks to widespread English proficiency) helped me integrate quickly. I formed lasting friendships with fellow international students from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Somalia, and beyond, as well as with local Norwegians. These connections turned my exchange into a true cultural immersion.

### **Conclusion: A Transformative Journey**

My semester in Stavanger was more than an academic requirement—it was a period of profound personal and intellectual growth. The University of Stavanger provided an outstanding learning environment, with top-tier facilities, inspiring professors, and a well-structured curriculum. Beyond academics, I strengthened old friendships, built new ones, and discovered the beauty of Norwegian culture.

As I finalize my last research paper and await my remaining grades, I reflect on this experience with gratitude. It has deepened my perspective on migration studies (my field of study) and left me with memories—and friendships—that will last a lifetime.

**Final Thoughts:** For any student considering an Erasmus+ exchange, I wholeheartedly recommend embracing the opportunity. The challenges are far outweighed by the rewards: academic enrichment, cultural discovery, and personal

growth. Norway, with its stunning nature and welcoming spirit, is a perfect destination for such a journey.

**Orientation day:**















**With Professor Jure Gombac from Slovenia**



### What is Feminism in Nigeria?

- Feminism in Nigeria advocates for gender equality, women's rights, and social justice.
- It challenges patriarchy, cultural stereotypes, and systemic discrimination.
- Nigerian feminism is diverse, shaped by ethnic, religious, and socio-economic factors.



























**With Prof Dr. Marijanca Ajša Vižintin**









