

ERASMUS PLUS Student Experience Report

Name: Jean Ngendahimana

Sending University: Karl Von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, Germany

Receiving institution: Stavanger University, Norway

Program: Erasmus Mundus European Master in Migration and Intercultural Relations

Re: My experience Abroad under Erasmus plus Program

My name is Jean Ngendahimana, I am Rwandan and I have a migration background here in Germany. I never heard about Erasmus plus in my country before making the journey to Europe without returning option. In the first months of 2015, things started to fall apart, the life was so challenging to the extent that I felt chocked about the decision to migrate here. My mobility was not easy and my socialization encountered different barriers.

After Joining Erasmus Mundus European master in Migration and Intercultural relations in September 2016 at the University of Oldenburg, I was aware that my second semester will be in the Scandinavia region, more specifically in Norway at the University of Stavanger under Erasmus plus mobility scheme.

I arrived there in January 2017 but I missed the orientation week which means no one came to pick me up to the airport. My first impression was that Norway is a beautiful country with a very beautiful landscape. First, I picked my room key and documents from the Scandic hotel near Sola airport and afterwards, I took the airport bus to the Stavanger University main campus student accommodation called 'Red box' where I stayed the whole exchange semester period.

During this period, I meet different Erasmus groups from different countries and many other international students. I learnt from them different things including but not limited to the culture, music and Knowledge. Parallel, in my class, our module was focusing about 'Immigration and emigration' in Scandinavia countries. Addressing critically and discussing the Scandinavia social welfare system, broadened my understanding regarding the social protection system in this region.

As a student with a migration background in Germany, I got an opportunity in Norway of visiting refugees camp and learn the asylum seekers application processes and framework in Norwegian context. My colleagues and I, participated in the asylum seekers deportation demonstration and many other activities such as academic freedom right campaigns under SAIH organization.

We organized different networking event and I got contacts from different countries around the world. The Erasmus plus mobility, helped me, not only to discover but also to know Scandinavia life style and socialization in academic environment. Although many countries with natural resources such as oil and gaz are overwhelmed by the civil wars and conflict, Norway is a best example of nationalizing the natural resources for the better of the people. Stavanger city is beautifully and the University makes it very attractive in academic world.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Jean Ngendahimana