

Exchange Semester at RU in Reykjavik

Preparation Phase

After I received my acceptance letter from RU, a small to do list “what needs to be done to get a smooth start in Reykjavik” (where to find accommodations, how to register for my courses, information about introduction week,...)

If you are looking for a room you should always look up the walking distance to university and downtown in google maps. Many students move places during their stay because they rent a room too far away from downtown. The international office supports you a lot by sending emails with contacts of landlords.



University

The exchange semester started with an orientation week for all exchange students (around 40). Nearly everyone took part in the 2 days program.

I signed up for 3 subjects: Entrepreneurial Finance, Fixed Income Analysis and Performance Management. Most of the master courses are weekend courses. This means I had 5 times a lecture starting on Thursday until Saturday evening. During the lectures, I had to do home assignments for each lecture. Nevertheless, I had enough time to travel and enjoy the amazing nature and landscape of Iceland. What I really want to stress is that the lectures were totally taught in English, when a student asked a question in Icelandic, it was translated and answered in English. I liked this a lot because it was not like that at the VSE in Prague. Most of the assignments were group works sometimes randomly assigned sometimes you could choose the groups yourself. Because of the “huge” amount of group works it was easy to get in contact with both other Erasmus students and natives. All my exams were open book exams; which I liked a lot because it was all about understanding the topics and transferring and applying knowledge and not about learning everything by hard.



Daily Life, Parties and Trips

Iceland is very expensive... YOU should not underestimate the prices... But some discounts are provided by ESN. And even though it is expensive people go out for a beer nearly everyday 😊

The ESN offers many evening events, but nearly no trips around Iceland. Many students organized (multi) day trips or hiking trips through the main ESN RU Facebook group. Therefore, travelling at comparable low costs was still possible 😊



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Survival tips

- Go to bonus
- Swimming card for 10 or 20 times (one time tickets are all the time more expensive because of the tourists)
- Secret Lagoon instead of Blue Lagoon
- Walk and save the money for the bus ticket
- Reykjavik 105 is not directly in downtown but less expensive
- Take your rain pans and waterproof shoes. It is not a joke that the weather conditions can change within minutes 😊
- Take vitamin D with you!
- Take your own pillow with you: D most of the exchange students are complaining about the ones they get here,

Conclusion:

I really enjoyed my time in Iceland it was a unique experience in an amazing surrounding =)

Iceland is expensive but it is worth going there!!

Yees it is windy, rainy and if you go to Iceland during the winter semester it is also dark and cloudy most of the time :D

But if you go during the spring semester, you will experience each day a little bit more sunshine until you finally forget how dark it was in the beginning 😊 Exploring the nature and hot springs is just amazing and another advantage: Because Reykjavik is comparable small, it is easy to get in contact with other people 😊

