



UFG-Report, Auslandsmobilität / Mobility Abroad

Erasmus+ Auslandsstudium
Erasmus+ Study mobility



Erasmus+ Auslandspraktikum
Erasmus+ Traineeship mobility



UFG-Mobilitätsstipendium
UFG-Mobility Grant



UFG-Auslandsstipendium
UFG-Abroad Grant



Studienrichtung an der UFG
Study program at the UFG

raum&designstrategien

Aufnahmeeinrichtung (falls eine Gastinstitution besucht wurde), host institution (if applicable)

Hanze Minerva Art Academy

Nur bei Auslandsstudien: Studienrichtung an der Gastinstitution
Study mobilities only: Study program at the host institution

Fine Arts

Gastland / Stadt
Host country / city

Niederlande / Groningen

Aufenthaltssemester
Semester of the mobility

WiSe 2021/22 und SoSe 2022

Anreise ins Gastland (Empfehlungen, Schwierigkeiten)

Travelling to the host country (recommendations, difficulties)

I travelled by train! From Vienna to Groningen it's about 13h of travelling with the train, there is not direct train to Groningen so I had to switch trains to finally get to Leer(D) where there is a shuttlebus directly to Groningen. Luckily I have a friend in Germany (Kassel) where I made a stop and stayed for two days before continuing my travel. This made it way easier for me, especially because of the not so reliable DB trains - be prepared for delays! All in all it was happy with my decision, that way I only had to travel 6h visit a friend and continue another 6h two days later. I know there is also an option to fly from Vienna to Eindhoven for quite cheap but you'd have to take the NS train (yep it's called like that..) to continue your travels to Groningen. The trains in the Netherlands are more reliable. This option would be the fastest. And the last option that I know is the Flixbus from Vienna to Amsterdam which is about a 17h ride and then again the train to Groningen. So depending on your preferences there are quite some options.

Leben im Gastland (Kultur, Unterkunft, Öffentlicher Transport, Essen, Lebenskosten)

Life in the host country (culture, accommodation, public transport, food, costs of living)

Groningen. A student city in the north of the Netherlands. Student city, because about 1/4 of the population are students and you can really feel that. The city centre is filled with bars and sorority houses and for some reason thursdays are sort of the party days because clubs and bars are open until 4am. The city is quite international and everyone speaks english very well. If not, most of the time the person will know some german -for sure! The people I encountered in Groningen, are very welcoming and open minded, there are some great artspaces that focus on young artists. Housing situation. I cannot stress enough to look for a housing as soon as possible. I recommend to search as soon as you decide to do an exchange in the Netherlands. I started searching around 3 months in advance and it still was too late. The year I decided to make the exchange was a special one because it was also the year where they brought back in-class teaching instead of distance. Meaning all the students who stayed at their parent's in the first year moved to the city.

Long story short, I ended up being homeless for two weeks before I found a place in a village close to Groningen.

Public transport. There are buses but the main transportation is the bicycle. There is the option to borrow a Swapfiets bike for 14€/month as a student. Be. Careful. It's cheap but if you forget to lock the bike and leave the key in there is a big chance that the bike gets stolen. I think that there are people waiting in front of bars and clubs on thursday evenings just waiting until a student forgets the key in the bike because they had some drinks already. It happened to two friends of mine who were also in Groningen for Erasmus, one time in the wintersemester and another in summer.

Food. Every week there is a market in Vismarkt, it's tuesdays, fridays and saturdays. I came to the conclusion that on tuesdays it is the cheapest. I highly recommend the cheese stand with a green cart! (I don't remember the name). Frietwinkel is the best fries shop in my opinion. Eierball (hard boiled egg covered in roux and deep fried) is a gronings specialty. And if you're already in the maket on tuesdays try the Kibbeling as well (fried fish) !

Costs of living. In the summersemester I found a room in the city which cost 385€ per month. The prices for grocery are a bit more expensive than in Austria but there are different options, they have: Aldi, Lidl, Jumbo, Coop, Albert Heijn. I mostly shopped at Jumbo or Lidl since they were the ones closest to the apartment and the more cheaper options.. For toiletries, Kruidvat is the store to go! Don't buy shampoo in a regular supermarket it's overpriced there. Eating out can be quite expensive, a dish without drinks and sides can easily cost 13€. I'd save eating out to special occasions.

Bei Auslandsstudien: Reflektion über das Studium (Lehrveranstaltungen, Sprache, Lehrende, Studierende, Auslandsbüro an der Gastuniversität)

Bei Auslandspraktika: Reflektion über das Praktikum (Art des Unternehmens, Arbeitsaufgaben, Betreuung)

Study Mobilities: Reflection on the study program (courses, language, teachers, students, International Office at the host university)

Traineeship Mobilities: Reflection on the internship program (Type of enterprise, work tasks, support)

The Minerva Art Academy.

In Minerva, Fine Arts is a four year Bachelor studies. As an exchange student you automatically study with the third year students. On their website they stated that the academy is studio based and let's you explore and work on your artistic practice. That was very much the case. You get your own studio space that you share with your colleagues. Some people use it more than others so there might be days where you will be the only one in the studio. The academy has many different workshops (painting, wood, metal, plastic, ceramic and clay, print, bookbinding, photography). If you want to learn a specific medium you can just walk in anytime and ask the teacher if you can learn/use the workshop unlike in the Kunstuni Linz. If there is for example a medium that requires more sessions, for example for analogue photography, you just have to find some people who also want to learn it to form a group and the teacher will teach the medium in weekly sessions.

There are four classes. Studio, Studio Classroom, Professional Practices and one OffCourse. In the beginning of the year you get assigned to one of the three Studio classes, each Studio class has two 'main teachers' they follow your progress throughout the year(Studio). Sometimes you discuss a certain topic with the teachers as a class for example "How should art education be?"

For Studio Classroom you write an essay that also relates to your artistic practice.

Each semester you should pick one OffCourse which varies in topics, like most electives in the Kunstuni Linz.

And Professional Practices is quite special, since it differs from the winter and summer semester. In winter semester the teacher invites people from the 'art world' and alumnis to share experiences and give advices. In the summer semester you're challenged to organise your own exhibition together in small groups.

If you do the whole year like I did, you can participate in the third years exposition because it takes place in March.

All classes are in english since Minerva has a lot of international students. I learned a lot during my exchange. Not just from the teachers, but also from my fellow colleagues.

Since there is a lot of freedom it is on your responsibility how much you do. The teachers don't tell you what to do, they ask sharp questions and try to guide you a bit. You have to take your own initiatives and work on your own practice to get the most of the Minerva Art Academy.

The international office is always there for questions and are very approachable. When I told them about my housing situation they became also active and asked people they knew that were taking in students in the past, but by the time they found someone, I already had found a place.

All in all I'm very happy I did the exchange year. I was able to participate in the Minerva Academy's third year exposition, organise a residency-like exhibiton and found a research topic for my Bachelor thesis.

Die Übermittlung des UFG-Reports an das International Office gilt gleichzeitig als Bestätigung dafür, dass der/die BerichtslegerIn mit der eventuellen Veröffentlichung auf der [Website](#) der Kunstuniversität einverstanden ist. Sollte die Verfasserin/der Verfasser damit nicht einverstanden sein, ist dies ausdrücklich im UFG-Report festzuhalten.

The submission of the UFG report to the International Office is at the same time confirmation that the author of the report agrees to its possible publication on the [website](#) of the University of Art and Design. If the author does not agree, this must be explicitly stated in the UFG report.