

Interview questions for international students at TH Köln

Student's name: Giovanni

Home university: University of Padova

Degree program: Management Engineering – Erasmus for Traineeship

1. Please shortly describe the reason for your stay at TH Köln (e.g. topic of final thesis/project work, name of laboratory, name of supervisor etc.).

I have been to TH Köln to carry out the master thesis project and the internship. The project was about the analysis of the laser welding quality. The lab was the NH 42, my supervisors were Prof. Pusch and Hartl and Mr Petrovic.

2. Why did you choose to spend some time abroad in Germany/Cologne/at TH Köln?

The choice to come to Cologne and TH Köln was proposed to me by my Italian professor because a collaboration had been established with Prof Hartl that also included an exchange of thesis writers and students to give value to the projects followed by the respective universities.

3. What is the name of your exchange program/scholarship?

Erasmus For Traineeship

4. What were the most significant challenges during your stay abroad?

Firstly to find an accommodation. Joking aside, putting the statistical methodologies learned during the course into practice on a real project and making choices and tests myself was very challenging and taught me a lot.

5. Did you have any difficulties regarding your language skills?

During my stay we interacted in English as I did not know German. I had no particular issues and by the end of the period I had even learned a few terms and expressions in German.

6. Were the courses/exams/projects/working methods different from those in your home country?

I've been in Cologne just for my master thesis so I don't really know about the course, exams methods. For the thesis project I think it would have been carried out in a similar way in Italy.

7. What did you like most about Germany?

The organization of public transport and Cologne, with all of its parks, the river and other wonderful things.

8. What did you particularly like about TH Köln?

The hospitality of Mr. Hartl and the lab guys, thanks to them me and Luca, the other Italian guy, felt at home.

9. What did you miss most while being in Germany?

My friends and my habits but I think that was about the covid situation.

10. How does student life at your home university differ from the one in Germany?

During my stay the university was closed so I don't really know.

11. Would you recommend a stay abroad in Germany/at TH Köln?

Yes, of course.

12. How could we have made your stay better?

Maybe to help with the accommodation research. I think that could be a good idea to reserve places for Erasmus students because the majority of the dormitory have a minimum period of stay of more than 6 months.

13. Would you have liked more support from TH Köln?

Only for the accommodation.

14. Why should German students spend a semester abroad at your home university and in your home country?

For the same reasons we come to Germany: to connect with another culture and live in a foreign city. In Italy we have beautiful landscapes, culture, good and typical food. We live very well.