Report of experience

ERASMUS exchange at TU Kaiserslautern

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Roman Carlile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Origin:</td>
<td>University of Warwick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration:</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year of your exchange:</td>
<td>2017-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field of study:</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years of studies before going abroad:</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1) Why did you go abroad and especially why did you choose Kaiserslautern?
   I had taken optional courses in German language in the preceding years and was offered the chance to take a year out for an intercalated year at TU Kaiserslautern by my home department. I had travelled to the Rheinland-Pfalz before and enjoyed the local culture and so made my decision to study there instead of the couple other locations I had available to me. This was a good decision.

2) How did you prepare your stay abroad?
   I made contact with the department of study I would be working in and began working out what paper work would be needed and when. I followed advice on the Erasmus web page and from my home department. I reached out to students in Kaiserslautern via Facebook and email to try and find a WG with other international students which I managed. Before the start of the course I took the 6 week intensive language course at B1 level, this combined with the weekend trips to nearby cities made for an ideal introduction to the university and fellow Erasmus students. Some of whom would go on to become long lasting friends.

3) How did you experience your studies at TUK?
   I had to take some technical courses in German which my home department had not anticipated and in some cases the exams were forced to be in German too so do check the module webpages and email the professors ahead of time to see if you can take the exams in English (spoken). Plan ahead and communicate well with your Professors to build up a strong rapport.

4) How was living in Kaiserslautern?
   The Town itself has some good basic amenities with some nice pubs and restaurants in the old town I’d recommend.

   Get ahead of the bureaucracy such as health insurance, registration and opening a bank account when you first arrive.

   Do try the Snug on Thursday for Karaoke its a good way to meet people. However The real benefit was the travel card from the University provided to its students that
allowed travel to neighbouring cities in the region for free or at a reduced price. Myself and friends would often travel up to Mannheim or Heidelberg. This really allows you to get the most out of your time.

I am a rock climber so the Rheinland-Pfalz has a lot to offer for outdoors activities, with some breath taking views from or of the Fels rock.

The wine culture in region is remarkable as well with many festivals and vineyards.

5) Would you choose Kaiserslautern again if you could?

I had a fantastic year with some incredible people, like with all things your time in Kaiserslautern will be as good as you make it, so have fun!

6) Do you have recommendations for future exchange students coming to Kaiserslautern?

Find a good balance between study and leisure, but do use the weekends when you are not in exam season to travel far and wide, your german will only improve if you put yourself out there!