


NHH**University**

Norwegian School of Economics

Country

Norway

Stay

Winter 2024 (August 2024 – December 2024) – Third term

Program

CEMS

Courses

- CEMS401 (Global Strategy)
- CEMSBS (CEMS Block Seminar)
- NOR10 (Norwegian Language for Foreign Students level I)
 - BUS401E (Strategic Profitability Analysis)
 - STR402A (Methodology for Master Thesis)

Preparation for the Exchange

Preparing for my semester abroad at the Norwegian School of Economics (NHH) in Bergen was a smooth process, thanks to the excellent support provided by the NHH. From the very beginning, their international office was highly responsive and offered detailed guidance regarding application procedures, course selections, and pre-departure logistics. As an exchange student, one significant advantage was the guaranteed accommodation in student housing, which greatly simplified the planning process. This level of support helped me feel well-prepared for my time in Norway.

Finding Accommodation

While all exchange students are offered guaranteed housing, choosing the right location is crucial. Many students are placed in the Fantoft student village, but I would not recommend it. Fantoft is far from the university, and commuting can be inconvenient. Instead, the Hatleberg student housing, located directly across from the university, is an excellent choice. Hatleberg offers a vibrant student community, and many events take place here. It consists of several blocks with both shared and single rooms. In my experience, master's students, particularly those in the CEMS cohort, often receive single rooms, which provide more privacy.

Personally, I chose to live in the city because I had connections in Norway. Living in central Bergen offers a more urban experience and better access to the city's amenities. Expect rental prices to range between 700 and 1,000 EUR per month. If you opt for this arrangement, I recommend staying near Danmarks plass, where buses can take you to NHH in just 10 minutes, or in Sandviken, which lies conveniently between the city center and the university.

Studying at NHH

The academic experience at NHH differs significantly from what I was used to at the University of Cologne. The system is more structured, and students are required to complete two assignments per course during the semester to qualify for the final exam. While this adds to the workload, the overall level of difficulty is comparable to Cologne— if not slightly easier in some cases.

Among the courses I took, *Strategic Profitability Analysis* stood out as the most challenging but also the most engaging. It provided practical insights into strategic decision-making and profitability analysis. On the other hand, *Methodology for Writing a Master Thesis* was somewhat dry but incredibly useful, as it equipped me with tools and methodologies that will undoubtedly prove invaluable when writing my thesis.

Daily Life

Bergen is a paradise for outdoor enthusiasts. In your free time, you can enjoy activities such as swimming, hiking, fishing, and cabin trips. The city is surrounded by stunning

nature, offering easy access to fjords and mountains. However, it is essential to be prepared for the weather. Rain is a constant companion in Bergen, and the winter months are dark. Although this can be challenging at times, it's a small trade-off for living in such a breathtaking environment. During my semester, we were even fortunate enough to witness the Northern Lights from Bergen, which was an unforgettable experience.

Life in Norway comes with a high cost of living, so budgeting is crucial. Groceries, dining out, and especially alcohol are significantly more expensive than in Germany. Be prepared to adjust your spending habits accordingly.

Conclusion

My semester in Bergen was an enriching and unforgettable experience. NHH offers excellent academic programs and strong support for exchange students. The city's natural beauty, combined with its unique cultural atmosphere, makes it a fantastic destination for anyone seeking a completely different experience from life in Germany. However, it's important to be realistic about the weather and the high costs of living. For those who can embrace these challenges, Bergen provides an ideal setting for both personal and academic growth. I highly recommend it to anyone looking for an adventure in one of the world's most stunning landscapes.