



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

Fine Arts - painting

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

Estonian Academy of Arts

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

Contemporary Art (MA)

Gastland / Stadt
Host country / city

Tallinn, Estonia

Aufenthaltssemester
Semester of the mobility

WS 2021/22

Anreise ins Gastland (Empfehlungen, Schwierigkeiten)

Travelling to the host country (recommendations, difficulties)

I took a direct flight from Vienna to Tallinn, you can book super cheap ones via Ryanair. From Tallinn to Vienna there are flights going twice a week. The airport in Tallinn is close to the city center, it's a 15 mins Taxi ride or you can also take a tram.

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

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

First things first: finding an accomodation

You best be off if you search through Facebook, there are plenty of groups (EKA internationals, Erasmus Tallinn,...), where everyone is either looking for roommates or a flat. I wanted to live in a shared apartement and found someone who wrote that they also want a shared space, so we started looking together. In the end, he made a good catch: It was a 5 room apartment in the middle of the old town (if you ask me, the best place to live in Tallinn). I lived together with 4 other Erasmus-Students (3 of them knew each other before). I was super lucky because we grew together like a family and they really became one of my closest friends. For my room I payed 300€ (including everything). I would recommend to search for an apartment where you pay a fix price, because heating and gas costs can explode during winter.

As soon as you're in Tallinn you should get your Estonian-ID, which officially makes you a resident of Estonia and therefore you get public transport in Tallinn for free (green card). Apply for it as soon as possible, as it can take about 2-3 weeks to arrive. Other train- and bustickets are super cheap as well, there are not a lot of trains, I would recommend using Lux Express (bus) to go on trips.

Food and costs of living are basially the same as in Austria. Of course it always depends where you go shopping or eating out, but as long as you're trying to avoid the main square (tourist area), it's fine.

The only thing that is way more expensive is the alcohol in stores. (Cheapest bottle of wine is about 6€).

Supermarkets and other shops are ususally open on sunday as well, there are also Supermarkets who are open 24/7. And you can also buy fruits and vegetables at markets around the town, but they are usually a bit more expensive there. (Balti Jaama Turg, for example)There's not really traditional estonian food, they usually eat a lot of meat and potatoes, but as Tallinn is a capital you get basically everything there and in every restaurant I've been you also have vegetarian and vegan options.

If you're there in wintersemester, I recommend to travel there a bit earlier (beginning/mid of August) so you get to see at least a bit of summer. Autumn is beautiful but goes by way too fast, as we had the first snow end of November. Yes, it gets quite cold there, I think the worst day was -18 degrees. But at least you get to see some proper snow and the christmas market in the old town is magic. Daylight is a bit shorter in Tallinn, but it's not as bad as everyone will tell you that it is. Sunsets are the prettiest, especially when you're on the seaside.

Estonians in general are a bit introvert and closed, it's not that easy to get to know them in the first place. Just be patient. If you want to make friends with other Erasmus-Students, you might check the schedule of ESN Tallinn, they always do a lot of parties, gatherings or trips, especially at the beginning of the semester.

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)

I did my Erasmus in the Master of Contemporary art. It's the only Master at EKA that's completely in English, therefore my colleagues were mainly international people. Language was never a problem for me, everyone in Uni but also in Tallinn generally can speak pretty good English. The head of Contemporary Art was also my Tutor with whom I had one-to-one talks about my works and development. We met approximately once a month in my Studio. Studio spaces are provided by University, but they are in a lot of different buildings and locations. Mine was in ARS, we had a big room and I shared it with 6-7 others. (ARS is a 10 mins train ride from EKA) In the Studio in ARS there were only students whose main practice was painting. There are also a few desks available directly in EKA, but they are pretty small and you can't make messy things there. The downside of having studio spaces that are so wide spread is, that you don't have that much of a group feeling as a whole class, as you don't even get to know everyone who you're studying with. Therefore you should try to go to openings or other events. I recommend Ventspace and Uus Rada (two student-run gallery spaces), you can also use those rooms to exhibit your own works or try things out.

What I liked most about the class is, that there's a huge variety of what people are doing as their artistic practice (painting, sculpture, photography, film, new media art,...). That helped me a lot to get out of my comfort zone and also to step out of a classic "painting-only" mindset. My Professor encouraged me to do more sculptures and three-dimensional things, for example. You can choose from a variety of courses, and as an Erasmus Student you have the freedom to also choose as many courses from other departments as you like. At the end of October there's one week that is free, but they offer Masterclasses (not mandatory classes). I would recommend to have a look at them as well. Additionally to courses you have mid-term reviews and the final evaluations, where you have to present what you did during the semester. But no worries - it's pretty chill and Professor only wants to help you to develop your practice further with giving you feedback. In December, all classes are ending and January is basically free, but they also offer some Masterclasses there as well.

Best courses were: "group critique" with Sten Ojavee, Drawing (conceptual) with "Maarja Nurk", "About Pigment and Binders" with Maria Erikson and every class that Gregor Taul is doing.

The International Office at EKA and especially Marilyn will always help you out if you have any troubles, it's best if you communicate to her over E-Mail but if it's urgent you can also just walk by the international office at EKA.

The beginning of the semester can be quite confusing, as no one knows what's going on and courses are not fixed yet, but just take it easy and don't give up.

All my courses, except of one that was over Zoom, were at EKA. Even though it got pretty bad with Covid in October, Estonia didn't have a lockdown. They only made a 2G rule for bars, restaurants, cinemas, museums,... and a rule that everything has to close at 11pm. Although Estonia is chill with Covid, if you need to get tested, it's hard. Usually you have to pay for it by yourself, this is also the easiest and fastest way. (A PCR is about 60€). But there's also a Covid-Hotline which you can call, but you usually only get a free test when you have symptoms or had contact with a positive-tested person.

MACA is the best class for you if you like working in different mediums, getting a lot of personal feedback and if you want to improve your English skills.

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