

Sevan (Erasmus Student from Tours)

"I study Biology in Tours, France, and I was able to finish my Bachelor in Germany. A very interesting fact for the Erasmus students is that in this country, the sixth semester of bachelor is devoted to a bachelor thesis, which in the case of scientific disciplines is an internship followed by an oral presentation of the work done and a dossier. In my case, this was not compatible with the Erasmus grades, and I was authorised to chose my courses between the options of the different Master courses in Biology, allowing me to take very specific modules.

I started with a 2 months-research module about cancer spheroids. I've worked with a PhD student on the project in Münster's Zellbiologie Institut. Without being impossible, it is very difficult in France to do an internship as a bachelor student, these modules only being accessible for Master students, so this was a fantastic opportunity. I had the chance to work on a large variety of instruments, including light-sheet microscopy, spinning disk, epifluorescence, and even a 3D printer. I also learned the basics of a lot of different software essential for data analysis. Even given my small experience in labs, I spoke to students and doctors working in the institute to confirm my impression: the University of Münster is very well equipped. Not only a lot of machines are available for research protocols, but the labs are also especially lovely, leading to a very pleasant and peaceful work atmosphere. I worked with scientists from all over the globe, and everyone was glad to offer me help.

I then continued with two advanced modules, the first one on molecular cell dynamics, and the second one on the ecology of aquatic models and systems. Both were fascinating, with very small groups of students, and 3 to 4 teachers. I had no experience in ecology sciences at all, but I was welcomed and actually learned a lot on statistical analysis essential for research in general during a one month project on fish behaviour I did.

In each module I took, I had to present an article, make an oral presentation about the results of our work and return a dossier. By visiting no less than 6 different labs during my stay in Münster, I witnessed the importance of oral skills in the scientific world and found this training excellent.

Even though both practical and theoretical courses are required for a good learning process, I won't hesitate to say that this semester was now the most enriching of my scholarship.

Besides that, the life quality of the bike-friendliest city of Germany led to a wonderful environment for studying. I will sincerely miss this city and the friends I've met there and will cherish the memories I have."