A SEMESTER IN BERGEN

STUDYING AT NORWEGIAN SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS (NHH) - 2018 FALL
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PROFILE OF NHH
Norwegian School of Economics (in Norwegian: Norges Handelshøyskole) is the most prestigious business school in Norway, located in Western Norway, in Bergen, a city with less than 300,000 inhabitants.

The university offers a wide range of courses, however students with analytical mindsets might find suitable courses more easily. For the list of courses check this website: https://www.nhh.no/en/for-students/courses/

TAKING COURSES AT NHH
At NHH most of the courses are open to everyone and does not have a limit regarding the number of students. Therefore, popular courses are given in huge auditoriums and lectures are often less interactive. However, group works and assignments are essential parts of the semester. Luckily there are a lot of spaces, such as group rooms and even the library that are suitable for meetings and university buildings are open 24/7, using student cards for entry.

Course registration is quite flexible, but it can vary by course. The general rule is that students can withdraw from a course before the deadline of the first assignment, but exact dates are shown on Studentweb where you have to do the course registration. There is a possibility to take the course but withdraw from the exam later during the semester, meaning that you don’t have to take the exam and it won’t be considered as failed ECTS.

Important note: When registering for courses, make sure that exam dates are not conflicting with each other. There is only one exam date for each course per semester and they are already announced at the beginning of the semester!

SUPPORT
The International Relations Office at NHH is exceptionally helpful and friendly. They can find a solution for any problems be it academic or personal.

Every semester an official Facebook group is created by the coordinators to help the interaction between students.
HOUSING
Dorm rooms are operated and allocated in Bergen centrally by an organization called Sammen. The closest one to NHH is Hatleberg Studentboliger, so make sure that you apply to this one, but of course the coordinators will send all the information needed. There are several blocks of buildings, F block is mostly dedicated to hosting exchange students (this is the only block with shared rooms).

Rent is quite affordable considering the generally high price-levels. For a shared room during the fall semester of 2018 students paid roughly 3,000 NOK/person including internet, electricity and water. Be prepared to pay almost 2-months’ rent worth of deposit when signing your housing contract.

However, the rooms are not well-equipped, students have to bring their own bedlinen, hangers, dustbins etc. and all the small things that we take for granted at home. Lot of people run to IKEA to buy brand new stuff, but please DON’T DO THAT! Here’s what smart students do: Join the official Facebook group of your semester. Students of the previous semester are usually selling “STARTER PACKS” there, with all the essentials included for a reduced price. Most of the times these items are still almost new but students don’t want to and/or can’t take them home and would be only thrown away by the company that operates the dorm. Win-win situation!

STUDENT LIFE
Students have a pretty active life at NHH. A lot of organizations welcome exchange students as well, so it is worth applying for them (usually there is a proper recruitment process with interviews). At the beginning of every semester a Welcome Week is organised, don’t miss it, it is worth the price. Really cool programs for surprisingly low price and opportunity to make your first friends abroad. I had the chance to try white water rafting for the first time in my life during this week – unforgettable experience.

White water rafting in Voss, Norway during the Welcome Week only for additional 120 NOK
**HIKING IN NORWAY, BERGEN**

This deserves its own chapter. In Norway and especially in Bergen people love nature and are out running and hiking whenever the sun is shining or even when it’s not (Bergen is really rainy, bring waterproof clothes). Norwegians have this saying: “Det finnes ikke dårlig vær, bare dårlige klær.” which basically means that there is no bad weather, only bad clothing and they really live according to this. Their mentality is really motivating and encouraged us to go up to the mountains as often as we could, and nature amazed us every time like it was our first hike.

There are 7 mountains around Bergen, hiking them all can be the first thing that you promise yourself at the beginning of the semester. Some people do it in one day, but that is a very demanding hike only for experienced hikers and during summer when days are long.

There are trails starting just a few minutes from Hatleberg and routes can be combined and varied so many ways that it never gets boring.

The Vidden trail is also a must-do. The trail goes on the top of the mountains (the plateau) between Ulriken and Fløyen providing a spectacular view of the city all the way, while passing by waterfalls and lakes. This hike is a whole day program and is more than 15 kms.

Ulriken and Fløyen are the two mountains having a cable-car/funicular going to top, although I think hiking is more fun, these are also worth checking out especially when having guests from home who are not used to the Norwegian way-of-life yet.

For weather forecast we used this Norwegian site, which was quite accurate: [https://www.yr.no/nb/oversikt/dag/1-92416/Norge/Hordaland/Bergen/Bergen](https://www.yr.no/nb/oversikt/dag/1-92416/Norge/Hordaland/Bergen/Bergen)

On the following website you can search for trails and trips throughout whole Norway: [https://ut.no/](https://ut.no/)

Keep in mind that when Norwegians say that a trip is suitable even for families with kids, there is a chance that it is still demanding for people coming from other countries! When it is marked demanding officially, please make sure to have proper equipment for hiking. Make sure that you never leave...
any garbage behind (not even banana peels), nature is very respected in Norway, like it should be everywhere else in the world. Also, it is very common that people greet each other up in the mountains.

For further suggestions, check the website of the Norwegian Trekking Association: https://english.dnt.no/routes-and-cabins/

TRAVELLING AND NORTHERN LIGHTS

Unfortunately, Northern lights cannot really be seen from Bergen, except for some rare occasions. I really advise you to travel to the North at the end of the semester. The city of Tromsø is considered one of the best places to experience Aurora Borealis. Thanks to the Gulf stream the weather is surprisingly okay up there, perfect for hours-long Northern lights chases. I recommend flying with Widerøe Airlines and booking the ticket (there is Youth ticket option) as soon as possible.
Harbour in the heart of Tromsø

I also highly recommend taking the train from Bergen to Oslo. It is a 7-hour journey but with incredible views along the way. If you think it is too long, you might take a flight back with Norwegian Airlines (do not forget to use the “UNDER26” code to get cheaper prices).

If you have questions that you haven’t found answers to anywhere else, you can contact me as well. However, I can’t offer help regarding the Erasmus/CEMS application process.

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Enjoy your semester abroad! The best thing that can happen to a student 😊