

# Student Guide

Place of Study **University of Konstanz, Germany**

CAN YOU BRIEFLY DESCRIBE WHY YOU CHOSE THIS PARTICULAR UNIVERSITY?

**I actually had Berlin as my first choice, but put Konstanz as my second choice as one of my closest friends was also going there.**

CURRENCY

What is the currency?

**Euros**

TRAVEL PLANS

How did you travel to your exchange University?

**Flight from London to Zurich and then a one hour train to Konstanz.**

How much was your air fare?

**It varied depending on how much in advance you booked. But usually under £100 return (with both Easyjet and British Airways)**

FIRST WEEK

Can you describe your first week?

**First few days I was rushing around because I had arrived late (I was on holiday in America) but I quickly settled in and got to grips with the language course. During the month long course, the university also helped to sort out all our administrative stuff like opening bank accounts etc. They made the whole process as stress-free as possible and a lot easier than for those who just arrived at the beginning of the semester and had to sort it all out in the space of a few days. Also, the language course itself was invaluable and allowed me to refresh and improve my German before my semester started. If you can't read between the lines, I am recommending that all going sign up for the September language course!**

CONTACT

Who was the main contact at your University for any questions such as module choices?

**My main contact at the university was a great guy in the International Office called Frank Lutzenberger. He wasn't specific to the Law Department and so couldn't answer very specific questions like module choices himself, but would always point you in the right direction and would try his best to help you himself. He is the man to speak to about any general queries or problems you have while in Konstanz whether it's about accommodation or where is the best place for a night out on a Monday.**

Are you allocated a personal tutor?

**In the Law department, Erasmus students were allocated a specific Erasmus tutor, Christian Strasser-Gackenhaimer.**

LECTURES AND SEMINARS

How many hours are you expected to study?

**In Law, there wasn't much set work from week to week and so they expected you to do your own independent study. You can really get away with doing nothing and then a month or two before exams, making your study plan and revising that way. How you study is really up to you.**

Are there many differences compared to Warwick University?

**There was a real hands-off approach compared to Warwick. No seminar work from week to week, just some topics to familiarise yourself with before it is explained to you again in your lesson. Absences are not as closely monitored as in Warwick as well and so it is easy to just slip out of good working habits that you build at Warwick. However the exams are extremely difficult and so being lulled into the false sense of security can be very dangerous come the end of the semester.**

#### EXAMS

When are the exams?

**End of January/Beginning of February and the end of July (!)**

Are the exams in June or are some of the assessment methods different?

**I only did exams but they were split into the exam periods at the end of each semester – a system I preferred.**

#### ACCOMMODATION

Did your exchange University provide your accommodation?

**There is a partner company that works with the university to provide student accommodation called Seezeit. Do not expect the perks of Warwick Accommodation.**

#### CLIMATE AND CLOTHING

What is the climate like compared to England?

**Cold in the winter, hot in the summer. Having football training at -15 degrees in January and sunbathing and swimming in the lake in May describes Konstanz. It will snow in the winter usually and will be baking hot in the summer. Also, it hardly ever rained. A picture book city.**

What type of clothing do you need?

**Warm clothes for the winter and a lot of t-shirts and shorts for the summer. Also, swimming gear is a must, lots of days will be spent at the lake and the Rhine but you can get away with doing a clothes switch between the semesters.**

#### SOCIALISING

Is the entertainment similar to England?

**Coming from London, Konstanz seemed unbelievably small when it came to options for a night out. However, with much exploring and experimentation, it will definitely have something for everyone. The clubs always have different music on different nights as well as their standard nights once a week. And because it is a small town, I found that after a few months I knew pretty much people in every venue, which had its perks (priority entry, free drinks etc)**

Is there an orientation week, such as the one at Warwick where you are introduced to other student from other overseas Universities?

**The language course in September is the best time to meet the other International students and it is like an entire orientation month. I found that the students who did the language course knew many more people than those who just arrived for the semester.**

#### DOCTORS AND DENTISTS

Did you join a practice?

**No...I had my EHIC card in case of emergency, but I hardly ever get sick so I didn't bother. I still haven't joined the Warwick Health Centre.**

### INFORMATION

Is there any information you wish you had known before you left?

**We were very well prepared by Konstanz University before we arrived, they sent us various handbooks with travel suggestions and maps. I wish I had known how bare the student accommodation would be, I spent a week without a pillow!**

### WHAT DID YOU GAIN FROM THE EXPERIENCE?

**From my experience in Konstanz, I feel like I have become a more cultured person. I mixed with people from all over Europe and the world and made some life-long friends. I had to adapt to foreign ways of thinking and working, and also be brave in seeking out things to do (I joined the local football team where no-one spoke good English). It gave me a greater appreciation for English universities and especially Warwick University as after comparing both systems, I preferred my home institution.**

**I also used the opportunity to travel around Europe a lot and I feel very privileged to have been to so many places and experienced so many things at such a young age. After this trip, there are only a handful of countries in Europe that I haven't visited!**