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St. Gallen

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St. Gallen City Center



Home View

It has been a month already since I arrived to St.Gallen - Switzerland and I can say that I have already get used to the life in here so far.

At the very beginning when I just arrived, early on September, the weather was warm and the sun could be seen every day. But more that the weather itself, you have more sunlight in summer, giving you the feeling that the day is longer. Currently, you could be feel how the winter is approaching and with it, making the day shorter and shorter.

The University

Right before starting attending regular classes, we had 10 days of German lessons. For the ones with some basic German, there is a placement test so you better learn with your peers at the same level. If not, you just start from the very basics. I definitely recommend attending the lessons every day so you are able later on to know the basic German, it could be useful when buy something at the supermarket or ask any question about directions. However, most of the people who I have met with, speak a fair English.

Once the German lessons are done, the bidding system is open and through it you have to choose all your credits for the academic semester. At the first round I strongly recommend you to select 3, maximum 4 courses. If you are interested in taking Quantitative methods from the MBF program, do not hesitate on putting any points for it, since no many people want it you can have you place without using any credits. Later, on the consecutive rounds from the bidding system, you could add more courses by allocating points on the courses of your interest. Be aware here that you also have to drop from the ones you do not want anymore. It is also important to know that you have to arrange all your courses that the time does not clash between courses.

Once the classes have started, it is still possible to change the curses in the system. In the case you did not get the place in a course you really wanted, you can talk to the professor by email or by going to the lecture room and let him/her know you are interested in the course and request to be a guest student in the course. You could request access to the course material through the system.

Life Expenses

Switzerland is definitely not the cheapest place to make an exchange semester but since the time is short, it might be affordable in the case you really want to have an experience about the Swiss culture, education, people and many other unique things from Switzerland. To give you an idea about the monthly expenses, I had tried to point out the main expenses. Monthly rent could be range between 500-700 CHF, if you select the apartment through the housing office, you have to pay a booking fee of 250 CHF, one-time maintenance fee of 150 plus 28 CHF insurance fee. Health insurance is mandatory, and the cheapest one is 100 CHF per month. Monthly bus ticket is 60 CHF. Residence permit costs 162 CHF. Meals at the University starts at 8CHF, many students bring their own home-made food and the University provides microwaves to warm it up. In the supermarkets however, is possible to find affordable food. By spending intelligent, switching between eating at home, bringing your food to the University and eating sometimes there, you could be able to spend 400-500CHF per month in food.

These is a great opportunity to meet all the exchange students from all the many partner universities St. Gallen University has. At the very beginning, during the 10 days of German lessons, there is an activity for every single day. Among the many activities they organize, I highlight the fondue night and the barbecue at the 3 lakes up in the mountains.