

Msc Marine Geosciences at the Universität Bremen

Bremen is a nice and cozy city that is not too big and has some nice green parks. Yet, there is a lot to do. The public transport is excellent and the whole city is also bicycle friendly. The university is reachable from the city center in 15 minutes by tram. There are a lot of international students, initiatives and events which makes you feel very comfortable. Also the German people are very friendly. Most of them know English, but it is always useful to speak some basic German.

The Master in Marine Geosciences is an international master so students come from all over the world. All courses are in English. There are a few modules of which courses can be chosen. I chose course on climate modeling, sedimentology and gas hydrates. The lectures were in blocks of five hours which was very long to stay focused, but all of it was very interesting. Besides listening to the lecturers and watching powerpoints presentations, also a lot of practical exercises were made. For sedimentology, for example, we looked at deep sea sediment cores and learned how to describe them. For climate modeling, we learned the basics of modeling in matlab. A module often exists out of two or three courses, but there is only one exam for the module.

In Bremen the winter semester started quite late, namely in the third week of October. There are two weeks of Christmas holidays, but afterwards the lectures continue to the beginning of February. After that there is time for exams, papers and presentations which can be set in the beginning of February, but as well in the end of March. You only get to know the deadlines during or at the end of a course which makes it difficult to estimate the duration of your stay. The summer semester starts at the beginning of April. It is however possible to have an exam throughout the year when a course is finished earlier. This was for me the case for the course on gas hydrates which was examined already in December.

After all exams and assignments are done, you have to go to the head professor of each module or course and let them give your marks and sign a certificate. All the certificates have to go to the coordinator. The coordinator for the master in Marine Geosciences was Ulrike Wolf-Brozio so she compiled the transcript of records and was very friendly and helpful if you had questions or other administrative requests.

I had a very nice experience in Bremen, in the city and in the university. I met a lot of nice and interesting people. The master program brought me new skills and knowledge in the field of environmental sciences, but the whole Erasmus exchange was a lesson of life.

Karolien Vanlerberghe