

Norges teknisk-naturvitenskapelige universitet (NTNU)

Trondheim, Norway

General

I studied at NTNU in Trondheim, Norway, from August until December 2014. NTNU is the second largest university of Norway and offers, next to engineering and natural and physical sciences, also degrees and courses in social sciences, arts, medicine, and architecture.

Preparation

One of the most important things you need to take care of before going to Norway is to find housing. The easiest way to get housing is via SiT (Studentsamskipnaden i Trondheim). SiT is the student welfare organisation in Trondheim. It does not only take care of housing for student, they also offer psychologists, study advisors, a health station, training centres, cafés, etc. However, in the fall semester there are in general more students than rooms available, so it is not guaranteed that SiT will arrange it for you. In case SiT will not offer you a room you'll need to find private housing, which can be pretty hard. Fortunately, I got a room offered from SiT in Steinan studentby, which is one of the student villages.

You do not need to arrange a visa to study in Norway. Anyone staying in Norway shorter than six months only needs to go to the police station once to register. NTNU will arrange an appointment for you at the police station.

Also, you need to subscribe for your courses before you go to Norway, but you can still change these until a few weeks into the semester.

You can also subscribe for the introduction week, which takes place the week before the semester starts.

Arrival

I arrived in Trondheim at the 6th of August, which was a couple of days before the introduction week would start. Because of this I could already explore the city a bit on my own and I had time to go to Ikea to buy some stuff for my room.

When you arrive at the airport of Trondheim, you can take a bus, Værnesekspresen, to go to the city. This bus departs every twenty minutes. You need to go to Moholt (which is both the name of the bus stop and of one of the student villages) to get your key from the SiT office (if you got a room offered by SiT).

Starting at the 11th of August there was an introduction week for exchange students. I would definitely recommend going to these activities as you meet a lot of other exchange students before the courses start.

On Monday we started with the registration, followed by a welcome meeting. After this we went to play the Trondheim games. The next day started with the matriculation ceremony. This was for all students of NTNU. There were multiple performances of music and dance, and the rector gave a speech. After this there was a barbecue for the international students. On Wednesday there was an activity called 63 degrees North, which was held at Kristansten Fortress. The activity consisted of multiple games of which as many as possible should be carried out by each team. The day after that, there was a hiking trip in Bymarka, which is a

popular recreation area. You could choose from nine different groups, ranging in difficulty from very easy to advanced. On Friday there was an information meeting in which they told you when you have to go to the police station for registration, where to go if you need health care, etc. For Friday, Saturday, and Sunday you could also choose two activities. On Friday I went on a hike along the fjord and on Sunday I went on a boat trip to Munkholmen, which is an island close to Trondheim). Finally, on Sunday you could watch a typical Norwegian movie 'The troll hunter'.

Courses

Norwegian Society (15 ECTS)

This course is given especially for exchange students. This is also one of the reasons why I decided to take this course, it is a great way to meet other international students.

The course covers 4 main topics dealing with the characteristics of the Norwegian society: Norwegian politics and economy, the welfare state, organizations and working life, and family and youth.

In order to be allowed to take the exam, two papers needed to be written. In both cases you got to choose between two or three subjects, and you could choose to either work in a group or to do it alone. The exam for this course lasted for six hours, because it is a 15 credits course.

Macroeconomics for managers (7.5 ECTS)

The course in macroeconomics is a first years course in economics. About half of the students were international and the other half was Norwegian. It is comparable to the macroeconomics course at Erasmus University. For this course one assignment needed to be handed in, in order to be able to take the exam.

Asset pricing (7.5 ECTS)

Asset pricing is a second-years master course in finance. It covers modelling to explain prices on different types of financial assets related to macroeconomic variables. Even though it was a master course, it was still quite doable. One presentation had to be given and one paper needed to be handed in before taking the exam.

Norwegian language course (7.5 ECTS)

The language course is offered to exchange students to get a basic level of Norwegian. The course was quite easy as Norwegian is not a very difficult language to learn, and also the level of the course was not that high. In order to pass the course you had to give an oral presentation and to take a written exam.

Finances

Norway is quite an expensive country to live in. However, usually you can get discounts for students for, for example, public transport.

My rent was 3920 NOK, which is around €450, this was my biggest expense. Groceries are pretty expensive in Norway, I would estimate I spent around €200 on that each month. In the

beginning of my exchange period I bought a t:kort (public transport card) for about €150 (with student discount). Instead of buying a t:kort you can also purchase a bike. You can buy a SIM card from ESN for 50 NOK (about €6). You can then put credit on it and use it as prepaid, or buy a subscription. Other costs like travelling, partying, etc. will really depend on your own preferences.

Daily life

I really enjoyed living in Trondheim. It is a beautiful city, and Norway is an amazing country to live in. Everything is very well organized, like public transport, health care, etc. Trondheim is also a very safe city to live in. The people are in general very kind and speak very well English. I can definitely recommend going to Trondheim on exchange!

If you have any questions regarding studying in Trondheim, don't hesitate to contact me:
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