

Travel: Würzburg is very easy to reach with either Frankfurt or Nuremberg Airport being the closest (circa 1hour away via train). It is very easy to travel to other cities and towns from Würzburg via train or coach. I would highly recommend buying the Bahn25 Card (equivalent of a Railcard) as it reduces costs significantly especially as you will be travelling a lot. There is a multitude of places near Würzburg to visit and I recommend making the most of every free weekend and Erasmus trip. In my time there I visited Hamburg, Berlin, Heidelberg, Munich, Dachau, Prague, Nuremberg, Rothenberg ob der Tauber, Bamberg, Erfurt, Göttingen and even went skiing via train to the French Alps. The possibilities are huge!

Accommodation: It is best to find accommodation with the Studentenwerk which is part of the university and offer a multitude of WG's for Erasmus students. I would think carefully as to which WG you choose as the main uni campus and many of the WG's are a 15 minute bus journey from the town centre which can be a pain if its late at night and no buses are running. The law faculty which I was to be attending was in the centre so I chose Friedenstrasse 2 (International Haus) which was only 5 minutes away from the Neue Uni and also filled with Erasmus law students.

Once you arrive in Würzburg it is vital to get all the boring admin stuff out of the way as the Germans like to have everything in order as soon as possible. I would highly recommend contacting a tutor from the international office website who will be in your WG as they can help you during your first few days. You will need to go to your hall of residence to pick up your keys. You will need to show your second rent contract and get there before 4pm otherwise the Hausmeister will not let you in. Other tasks will include opening a bank account (Sparkasse is probably the best) so that you can pay your 'Semesterbeitrag' via standing order (Bankeinzugsermächtigung) and get evidence of this to show the university later on when you register. You will need to register at the Rathaus (town hall) and remember to get there early because even at 07:30am there will be a line! Remember to register at the Krankenkasse (health insurance). You will also have to visit the Studentenwerk (beware its temperamental opening times!). Once you have done all this the international office can process your student card.

The university offers an intensive language course in September which I highly recommend as this is the perfect time to meet the other Erasmus students and get used to the city before all the German students come back in October.

Cultural tips:

Be warned that hardly anything except cafes and restaurants are open on Sundays. Würzburg is a very catholic city which means Sunday is a day of rest and there are a dozen 'Feiertage' specific just to Bavaria which will result in shops being closed on random days. This resulted in a few hungry evenings where I had forgotten to buy food the day before.

Obey the green 'Amplemann' at traffic lights. Germans have no qualms in calling out people who cross while the man is red, and woe betide anybody who does this in front of a mother with her children.

Everything in Germany runs like clockwork, which is a dream compared to the UK. Buses will be on time and no bus driver will wait for you if he sees you running up the street.

Bring your own shopping bags to the supermarket otherwise you will be unnecessarily paying for bags each time. Also there is no space to pack your bag at the till so be hasty or move to the side to pack. Also, remember to keep all your bottles to recycle at the supermarkets as there is normally a pfand to collect on them.

Make the most of the variety of students around you from across the world- although try not to be sucked into the English speaking world that is the Erasmus students. Make an effort to meet and socialise with German students as this is the only way you will truly improve your language skills.