Study Abroad Event of the Faculty of Applied Social Sciences (FAS) during the International Teaching Week

More than 40 students gathered on Monday night and joined the Study Abroad Event organised by FAS for the International Teaching Week. Students were informed about the most important things concerning mobilities abroad and were able to ask professors and staff members of the Faculty of Applied Social Sciences and the International Office their burning questions. If you were not able to attend the event or cannot remember all of it: Here is a summary of the evening for you with all the important facts.

Go ahead with your planning!

First things first: You are not alone with your worries and especially now, during the pandemic, a lot of students are struggling when thinking about their semester abroad. However, the planning of a semester abroad is quite theoretical and does not cost you anything. So why don’t you just plan everything now, regardless of the unstable corona situation and your doubts – you have nothing to lose, and it always pays off to plan a mobility in advance.

The perfect time?!

Your time as a student is perfect for stays abroad. You are independent and still free of things tying you to a certain city or place, such as limited holidays. During mobilities, most students become more independent and self-confident, and they describe their time abroad as mind-opening and formative. In addition, students meet a lot of new people, can establish important business contacts and make friends for life. However, there is not one perfect term for a semester abroad and opinions of experts vary on this aspect. In the end, students must decide for themselves which term suits best. If the stay is planned thoroughly and well in advance, it is possible to attend some courses earlier and to choose equivalent courses at the partner university that can sometimes replace mandatory courses at home.

Application – how and when?

The deadline for stays abroad for the next summer term is the 30th of July. If you are interested in a stay at one of the partner universities, you must follow an internal application procedure. The letter of motivation is just for internal purposes and will not be send to the receiving institution. The International Affairs Officers need the letters in case of too many applicants for a specific university. It is also possible to go abroad as a FreeMover. Those are students that have chosen a university that is not a partner of FHWS. As a FreeMover, you organise every part of your stay yourself and should therefore think about financing options and scholarships early in the process (for more information on scholarships, contact the International Office).

The financial aspect

It does not matter if you are planning to stay in an EU country or travel around the globe for your semester abroad: there are different financing options available to you. Moreover, a semester abroad is not as expensive as many suspect as it is just the flight, housing and daily expenses that need to be covered. Most of the times, students cover their rent by renting out their own rooms and apartments at home. Also, living expenses depend on the destination: coffee in Sidney costs up to 10 euros whereas a cup of coffee in Sofia costs under one euro. All students planning a semester at one of the partner universities of FHWS in Europe qualify
for Erasmus+ funding. Semesters abroad outside of the EU can be funded by various scholarship programmes provided by Erasmus, the DAAD (Promos) or the state of Bavaria. More information on financial support during a semester abroad can be found on the website of the International Office.

More questions?

Of course, it is not possible to answer all questions concerning mobilities within just two hours. However, this is not a problem, as FHWS has a great supportive structure. Every faculty has its own International Affairs Officer who will have answers to most of your questions. A list of all International Affairs Officers can be found here. Moreover, the International Office of FHWS has the most important facts summarized on their website. They also explain everything concerning MoveON, an online platform that has all FHWS partners listed with additional information about the universities.

What are you waiting for? Start planning your individual mobility!