



BERICHTSFORMULAR

Non-EU Student Exchange Programm

2023/2024

BewerbungsID 17608

Nominierte Studienrichtung: 066/656 Studienrichtung Masterstudium CREOLE-Cult.Diff.a.Transnat.Proc.

Angaben zum Aufenthalt:

Gastinstitution: University of Pretoria - (Südafrika)

Aufenthaltszeitraum: WS 2023/2024

Aufenthaltsbeginn: 18.07.2023 Aufenthaltsende: 07.12.2023

STIPENDIUM	
Stipendium Uni Wien gesamt laut Zuerkennung: (inkl. Zuschüsse für Reisekosten und Sprachtest)	€ 1.400,00
	Rückforderung: nein Rückgeforderter Betrag: € Rückforderungsgrund:
Weitere Stipendien (zB Jasso, Studienbeihilfe):	Weitere Stipendien: Nein • Stipendium des Gastlandes: nein () • Bundesländerstipendium: nein • Studienbeihilfe: nein • Sonstiges Stipendium:
Summe weiterer Stipendien:	€ 0,00
Gesamtsumme aller Stipendien:	€ 1.500,00

KOSTEN DES AUSLANDSAUFENTHALTS	
Unterkunft:	€ 1.100,00
Art der Unterkunft:	Privatunterkunft
Reisekosten:	€ 700,00
Lebenshaltungskosten:	€ 600,00
Studienkosten:	€ 0,00
Versicherungskosten	€ 100,00
Visakosten:	€ 50,00
Gesamtkosten des Auslandsaufenthalts:	€ 2.600,00

Bericht veröffentlichen:

PERSÖNLICHER BERICHT

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Verfassen Sie bitte einen persönlichen Bericht über den Studienaufenthalt

- Mindestumfang: Fließtext 1 Seite DinA4
- Inhalt: Gastuniversität, Kurse, Prüfungen, Mitstudierende, Unterkunft, etwaige Schwierigkeiten etc.

BERICHT ÜBER DEN STUDIENAUFENTHALT

The University of Pretoria was collaborative once I arrived, and the introductory and orientation meeting was very helpful. Navigating the campus was complex as it is very large and not very clearly marked, but the positive note is that it is a safe place to move around, albeit a bit less so in the evening or at night if one stays longer in the library. The university staff, professors, and staff were extremely helpful throughout my stay. I am very grateful for their collaboration and support, especially at the beginning of my stay.

Furthermore, the University of Pretoria campus is very beautiful and offers many services including a large library and places to have lunch or buy food or drinks, as well as several very beautiful museums worth visiting. I was happy to participate in various initiatives and events, including wonderful concerts by the University of Pretoria orchestra, organized on campus. In particular, the day dedicated to international students was an excellent opportunity for exchange and enrichment, as well as a beautiful initiative expressing inclusivity and cultural richness.

The courses I took were interesting and very demanding due to the constant workload, deadlines, and assignments to prepare. In most of these, I was the only international student, which allowed me to be fully involved with local students. My classmates were very helpful from the start and even organized a welcome dinner for me. I appreciated the support of my peers, especially in situations of doubt regarding course management or internal organization, which is very different from that of the University of Vienna.

Moreover, I was able to form numerous friendships with many of the international students who arrived during my same period, with whom I also shared trips and moments of solidarity to solve common

problems. I formed beautiful friendships in general with many of the people I met during this experience. Unexpectedly strong bonds.

I chose to stay in a private apartment because the cost of living in South Africa is much lower, and my experiences with student accommodations in the past have not been the best. Unfortunately, the apartment I had selected and booked months in advance, once I landed at Johannesburg airport, turned out to be unavailable, so I spent a difficult first week, but then it was resolved when I found an apartment where I lived for 4 months. In the last period, I lived in a second apartment because, in the first one, I had problems with the homeowner and technical issues. It was not easy to deal with the problems related to the first house, moving, and changing houses and areas. The major difficulties were related to the insecurity of the city due to high crime rates. This situation forced me, upon the indication of the University and locals, to always use transportation even for short distances and as the only means of transportation, Bolt or Uber services, not public transportation, even those considered dangerous. Even taking a Bolt or Uber could be dangerous, especially at night, so it was advisable to move with other people, friends, or always share real-time location to keep track of your movements. In addition to this, a thousand precautions were necessary to avoid thefts and muggings of personal belongings, and numerous instructions were communicated on the first day of orientation and always remembered during the months.

There are many dangers in the city of Pretoria and in general in South Africa. It is important not to forget to pay attention during one's activities during the day. I felt very weighed down by not being able to walk freely anymore and having to depend on an Uber or Bolt car for every move and at the same time having to shut oneself inside fenced houses or buildings, with barbed wire, cameras, guards, and alarms, like in a cage as the only way to feel safe. The freedom to move around and carry out activities even individually while feeling safe are dimensions that I missed a lot during these months in South Africa.

I sincerely advise you to prepare in advance also for the problem of electrical load shedding. Power cuts are not the same every day and also depend on the period, but there were days when electricity was lacking even for 12 hours, so it was useful to have flashlights, power banks, or chargers. In addition, a lot of adaptability is needed to be able to change one's habits quickly. There are situations where it may not be possible to cook or wash due to the absence of electricity or the heating does not work for the same reason.

Another piece of advice is to try to move, especially initially, always in a group or with someone to avoid dangers or unpleasant situations. I recommend visiting botanical gardens in cities because they are wonderful and safe places to walk. Markets are another place I recommend living and experiencing, whether local or traditional. I also recommend visiting Kruger Park in winter to avoid the risk of malaria and to have a better experience, also having the opportunity to meet more animals.

However, South Africa is not just this. It is an extraordinary state, full of cultural and natural diversity. Overwhelming and intense, it leaves one breathless for the wonder of nature and animals and for the



hospitality of its population, extremely kind and helpful people. It's easy to feel at home after a short time with the locals. I built wonderful friendships, almost familial. I cannot summarize my experience on one page, but I want to emphasize here that I wanted to highlight the limits and difficulties of the South African situation and thus be able to share useful information for future students, but surely there is much about this state that I have been able to discover that I could not tell here. I had the opportunity to travel in the state and visit incredible places and meet fantastic people.

I wholeheartedly encourage embarking on this journey, provided you're armed with thorough preparation and a genuine curiosity to explore cultures and worlds beyond your own. It's a delightful adventure waiting to unfold, filled with enriching experiences and heartwarming encounters.