



BERICHTSFORMULAR

Non-EU Student Exchange Programm

2021/2022

BewerbungsID 8752

Nominierte Studienrichtung: 066/833 Studienrichtung Masterstudium Ecology and Ecosystems

Angaben zum Aufenthalt:

Gastinstitution: University of Dar es Salaam - (Tansania)

Aufenthaltszeitraum: WS 2021/2022

Aufenthaltsbeginn: 25.10.2021 Aufenthaltsende: 25.02.2022

| 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: | € 800,00 |
| Art der Unterkunft: | Privatunterkunft |
| Reisekosten: | € 1.000,00 |
| Lebenshaltungskosten: | € 1.300,00 |
| Studienkosten: | € 0,00 |
| Versicherungskosten | € 130,00 |
| Visakosten: | € 240,00 |
| Gesamtkosten des Auslandsaufenthalts: | € 3.500,00 |

Bericht veröffentlichen:



PERSÖNLICHER BERICHT Non-EU Student Exchange Programm 2021/2022

BewerbungsID: 8752

Nominierte Studienrichtung: Studienrichtung Masterstudium International Business Administration

Angaben zum Aufenthalt:

Gastinstitution: University of Dar es Salaam - (Tansania)

Aufenthaltszeitraum: WS 2021/2022

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

Where to start... wow, what an experience..., and definitely the most intense experience whilst living and traveling abroad. Traveling and living abroad weren't new to me. Before going to Tanzania, I solo-backpacked all continents except Africa. Which to some extent prepared me a bit, but less than expected. I remember doing the intercultural workshop and thinking I will not experience any big challenges, I was wrong.

Before coming to the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) in Tanzania, I had to apply for the exchange program and had to fulfill certain requirements, such as having an English B2 certificate, a motivation letter and some further documents. The application process was easy and all speaks for itself. Then I received the acceptance, I was very happy and excited. At some point I got contacted by the International Office of the UDSM by Mr. Antidius Rweyongeza and received a bit more information. Although, limited. When asking further about the student accommodation which I wanted to book it took many emails before getting an answer and unfortunately it was impossible to arrange anything before arriving. Equally the starting date was long unknown. Was it going to be end of September, October or November? This caused a bit of stress since I didn't know when to book a flight or accommodation and how to structure my life regarding my job. Luckily, the International Office of the University of Vienna tried to help me where they could. Then, beginning of October I decided to book a flight for mid October to Zanzibar and wait there until I would know more. At arrival I payed 50 dollars (cash) for a tourist visa and received my student visa (260 dollars) later through the International office. This was 4 months after my arrival and payment, after I started claiming my money back. I have heard that an exchange student from Ardhi University (next door UDSM) arranged it directly at the airport through the immigration, so that might be an alternative. Although, others I know didn't manage. While in Zanzibar I found out about the UDSM start date through a Dar es Salaam connection / couchsurfing member I found in a Facebook group who somehow was in contact with the university. I had to be there 2 days later. I took a boat and arrived in the Dar es Salaam ferry port next day. Luckily, I managed to get a private accommodation in advance through a local Facebook group.

Dar es Salaam was heavy during the first days as I did not know how to deal with the city. Men were sometimes not so respectful as I wished and depending on which part of the city you were in, people wanted money. Being white, tall, blonde and female made me stand out almost anywhere I went. The first



days this was hard, then I got kind of used to this, but then after some time I got a bit sad because I felt very unfree since there were quite a few incidents where I was being followed by sometimes multiple men although mostly covering up knees and/or shoulders, being out at day time, telling them in Swahili I was married, had no money and especially no interest in them following me. This happened quite some times while I was living in Mikocheni, mostly while walking on the beach. At some point I stopped walking around regularly and stayed more inside, but this again made me feel limited.

On the other hand, while feeling a bit limited in some aspects, many other things were possible and running easily. Getting around in the city worked quite well. The traffic can be quite bad during the long rush hours, but everything somehow works. The busses drive and are quite understandable. Besides, there are motor taxis, Bajaji's (like Indian tuktuk's), and normal taxis. I recommend to use Bolt or Uber. The prices are fixed and all vehicles are tracked through the drivers phone. So better safety-wise and easier, as in not having to discuss about the prices. Also regarding covid there were no measurements, the last mask I saw at the airport, only whilst checking the news you got remembered. In my experience, this was quite pleasant. In general, health-wise I did not have to get any new vaccinations after getting the main ones for previous travels already. One time, I got very sick due to food-poisoning for a week, as in fever episodes and passing out once. Also, I had quite some lung problems because of the air-pollution. Regarding simcards and internet; this was a relatively easy at the Vodacom shop. the connection in Dar es Salaam was most of the time very good. I was able to do my Zoom calls for my Vienna lectures and my remote job. With withdrawing I had some problems as my visa card and normal bank cards were not working to withdraw more than 10-20 euros although switching off geo control. After exchanging my last dollars, I was able to withdraw money with M-Pesa at many wakala's, gas stations or malls (it's some local sim-card bank account). Really useful and cheap conversion rates.

In general, the city is a very interesting place. Mostly I felt like it was a beautiful chaos, sometimes just a chaos, without the 'beautiful'. There are many different neighborhoods, with each their own character. The Indian neighborhood (amazing food, and temples), Kariakoo (local, the textile market is here), Mikocheni (Where I lived at the beginning, has Nafasi art space and Mama Afrika), Masaki (the wealthy expat bubble and its clubs), Sinza (Where I lived close by at the end, local neighborhood next to the uni) and many more as it is a huge metropolis with 7 million inhabitants. What astonished me is how many different worlds live next to each other. Of course you find this in every city, but in Dar es Salaam it seemed more extreme than elsewhere. The rest of the country is gorgeous, f.e. the Usambara mountains and the islands. Culturally, I think it's a very fascinating country, it's diverse in costumes, habits and religions and there are many new perspectives to discover and learn about. Also, I think it's amazing how Christians and Muslims are living next to each other peacefully and even marry each other. Furthermore, the people are very extroverted, welcoming and kind. I am really thankful for all the insightful conversations I've had.

Coming to the point, the university all went well. After some organizational struggles before starting, it finally took off. Also Antidius was very kind and organized the introduction week and excursions very well. I took 2 courses of the PhD program in Management of the UDSM Business School. One course was about entrepreneurship and the other course was about organizational theory. The content of the seminars was good, only the practical approach was missing a bit for me. You really go into depth regarding all the presented theories, only you don't apply the acquired knowledge that much. Luckily it was a good mixture of learning methods; listening lectures, presenting, writing essays, exams and class discussions. In the first course there were quite some group exercises. I did not like them so much because I felt like time was not being used efficiently and sometimes the men really liked to talk a lot or just repeat what the women said previously for the sake of saying it? Anyhow, it was interesting observing how everything was progressing. Since it was a PhD program all 17 students were around 35 to 55, thus were already working for many years or had their own businesses. What I really enjoyed was getting many insights while talking with my fellow students, either about class subjects or outside of class. Also, I really valued the real life examples some professors were using to get the material across. The workload was good. And a plus: The university campus is amazing as it feels like a green oasis in comparison to the concrete city jungle.



All in all, my exchange semester in Dar es Salaam was a very good although intense experience. Sometimes, I don't know if I would choose Dar es Salaam again for an exchange semester because at some point I had some health issues, my first housemate was somewhat problematic and not walking around freely was more difficult than I thought. Also, I am not a city person and living in Dar es Salaam (= Arabic for 'harbor of peace') was not so peaceful in my experience. On the other hand, I learned so much from the exchange semester and had so many beautiful experiences which I would not want to miss. In hindsight, don't regret coming to Dar es Salaam and I am grateful for how Tanzania and the Tanzanians received me. For some of the other exchange students it was Drama-Salaama and for some it was the most amazing time of their life and they want to stay longer. Depending on your expectations, your mindset, your needs and luck, you'll find out.

If you go, feel free to contact me and make sure to study some Swahili as some basics are extremely useful out here.

Dar es Salaam, 25/02/22