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1. Brandenburg University of Applied Sciences

Facts and figures

Legal name of the institution:	Fachhochschule Brandenburg
Address:	Magdeburger Str. 50 D-14770 Brandenburg an der Havel
University switchboard:	+49 (0)3381/355-0
Fax:	+49 (0)3381/355-199
E-mail:	info@fh-brandenburg.de
Head of the University:	Dr. Hans Georg Helmstädter
Title:	President
Erasmus Coordinator:	Heike Wolff
Address:	Magdeburger Str. 50, WWZ 239
Telephone:	+49 (0)3381/355-104
Fax:	+49 (0)3381/355-199
E-mail:	auslandsamt@fh-brandenburg.de
Internet:	www.fh-brandenburg.de/auslandsamt



About the university

Brandenburg University of Applied Sciences (in German: Fachhochschule Brandenburg or FHB for short) is one of 12 higher education institutions in the state of Brandenburg with 3,000 full-time students at the Department of Business and Management, the Department of Informatics and Media and the Department of Engineering. 250 of our students come from abroad.

With the founding of the university, just an hour's drive from Berlin, in April 1992, the city of Brandenburg on the river Havel became a university town for the first time in its history of over a thousand years. The main building of the former military barracks houses today the university administration as well as the Department of Business and Management. Where the cavalry once practiced military drills, students now cram for exams. The former red-brick barracks have been renovated and the white rooms and hallways are pleasantly cool in the summer. An excellent library has been set up in the former stables, and what was once the officers' mess has been rebuilt into buildings housing modern lecture halls. The campus has been expanded with various new buildings. The two old red-brick buildings together with the three new buildings with a yellow clinker exterior form a harmonious ensemble which makes the university campus one of the most attractive in Germany.

This young university is a practically-based higher education institution that has an international flavour, and emphasises applied learning aimed at equipping students with the knowledge and skills required to follow professional careers.

The excellent environment in this small but expanding university offers exceptional opportunities; close personal contact with professors, spacious laboratories, workshops and computer facilities and small study groups. All of these contribute to rapid and effective results.

The professors at Brandenburg University work closely with public and private sector companies and institutions in the region which are involved in research and development projects. Students participate

hands-on and thus benefit in a practical way, adding value to their studies.

The International Office

At the international office you can get help and information. Even though we have specific business hours you are welcome to come by at any time. We advise international as well as German exchange students. Our buddy students provide further support with all matters of everyday life.

Brandenburg University maintains partnerships with about 50 universities and institutions, both in Europe and overseas.

Departments and degree courses

Department of Business and Management

Large and small enterprises, private and public sectors, local and global players - the business world needs people who generate bright ideas and have the knowledge and skills to turn them into economically-viable products and services. Our aim is to give students the skills required to be successful in every sector of business. The Business Informatics degree focuses on the implementation of cutting-edge information and communication technologies with business applications. Graduates of the Technology and Innovation Management programme are equipped with the business skills required by engineers and scientists.

<i>Business Administration</i>	Bachelor and Master of Science
<i>Areas of specialisation</i>	SME business administration
	International management
	Controlling
	Taxation
	Marketing
	Innovation management
<i>Business Informatics</i>	Bachelor and Master of Science
<i>Areas of specialisation</i>	Information management for cooperative systems
	Integrated business applications systems
	Marketing and managing digital media

<i>Technology and Innovation Management</i>	Master of Science
<i>Security Management</i>	Master of Science

Department of Engineering

The engineering industry is experiencing a rapidly growing demand for graduates with specialist skills. We offer practically-oriented degree programmes, taught in state-of-the-art laboratories, which will enable you to gain the skills valued by prospective employers and to develop the ability to work effectively and professionally in project teams. A broadly-based curriculum provides the interdisciplinary foundation for successful teamwork.

<i>Mechanical Engineering</i>	Bachelor of Engineering
<i>Microsystems and Optical Technologies</i>	Bachelor of Engineering
<i>IT-Electronics</i>	Bachelor of Engineering
<i>Mechatronics and Automation Systems</i>	Bachelor of Engineering
<i>Computer Aided Development</i>	Master of Engineering
<i>Energy efficiency of technical Systems</i>	Master of Engineering

Department of Informatics and Media

Information and Communication Technologies are moving society forward at an ever increasing pace and touching more areas of life than ever before. Input from industrial partners has led to the development of innovative degree programmes with relevance to the real world. Our career-focused courses ensure excellent employment prospects for graduates.

<i>Informatics</i>	Bachelor and Master of Science
<i>Areas of specialisation</i>	Intelligent systems
	Network computing
	Digital media
<i>Applied Computer Science</i>	Bachelor of Science
<i>Medical Informatics</i>	Bachelor of Science
<i>Media Informatics (online)</i>	Bachelor and Master of Science

Courses

Courses are usually taught in German, but a selection of modules is taught in English in the Departments of Business and Management and Informatics and Media. Please check the department websites for further information.

German language course

Brandenburg University offers courses in German as a foreign language aimed at improving the language skills of not only Erasmus students but of all international students. You will have the chance to get acquainted with German grammar as well as to improve your communications skills and to enrich your vocabulary. Last but not least, the course will give you the chance to meet new people from other fields of study at the university, so don't hesitate to take part 😊

General lecture series: History of the city of Brandenburg/Havel

Learning about Brandenburg's history is something you will be sure to enjoy. The course is usually organized each semester and offers you a chance to get to know the history of the town, its traditions and culture better by visiting some of the town's museums and places of interest.

And that is not all! One of the most exciting parts of the course is the meetings with famous and important citizens of Brandenburg.

What about visiting the oldest church in the state of Brandenburg? Or having a chat with the mayor of Brandenburg/Havel? Or just enjoying a canoeing tour in the company of an Olympic medallist in canoeing? Who could refuse?



How to apply for an Erasmus exchange

Students from our partner institutions may study in Brandenburg as Erasmus students for one semester or one full academic year.

Applications should be made no later than June 1st for the winter semester and December 1st for the summer semester. You will find the necessary documents, an application form and an accommodation form on our webpage www.fh-brandenburg.de/1730.html or you may ask your Erasmus coordinator at your home university for them.

It is possible to send the learning agreement together with the application forms or bring it along when you arrive here. Timetables can be found under <http://zeus.fh-brandenburg.de/Stundenplan/Plan.htm>.

Please note that you are obliged to provide yourself with the necessary medical insurance.

European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)

ECTS credits offer a quantitative description of the study achievements. In all Europe, normally 30 credits are awarded for one semester. ECTS credits are value allocated to course units to describe the student workload required to complete them. They reflect the quantity of work each course requires in relation to the total amount of work required to complete a full year of academic study at the institution, including lectures, practical work, seminars, private study -in the library or at home- and examinations or other assessment activities. Credits are awarded only when the course has been completed and all stipulated examinations have been successfully taken.

Apart from ECTS credits local grades will be given. These are based on the results of exams or coursework. Some modules however are only assessed by "pass" or "fail". After the end of the semester, when the exam results are available, the International Office issues the transcripts of records for all exchange students and sends them to the given home address.

How to obtain a residence permit for students from non-EU-member countries

The visa you have already received from the German embassy in your native country has to be changed into a student residence permit. The International office will support you in organizing the necessary documents for your visa application.

First of all, you should know that as a foreign student in Germany you will need to have about € 600 per month during your period of study. This can be proved by a scholarship or a confirmation by your parents that they support you.

With this proof, your student identification card, your rental contract along with your address registration in Germany, passport and medical insurance valid for the period of your studies you can go to the Foreigners' Office (Ausländerbehörde) in Brandenburg and apply for a residence permit.

Students from EU-member-countries do not need a visa. However, they also have to register at the Foreigner's office.

How to get to Brandenburg University

BERLIN: "What do I do after my airplane has landed?"

As you may already know, starting from 2012 there is only one airport in Berlin. We would like to give you some advice on how to get to the university if arriving by plane.

Airport Berlin Brandenburg International (BBI)

Take the Airport shuttle (train) towards the centre of Berlin. After about 20 minutes' journey, change trains at Berlin Hauptbahnhof (Berlin central station) on to the regional train (RE) 1 to Brandenburg or Magdeburg. Both these trains take you directly to Brandenburg in about 40 minutes.

BRANDENBURG: "How do I get to the university?"

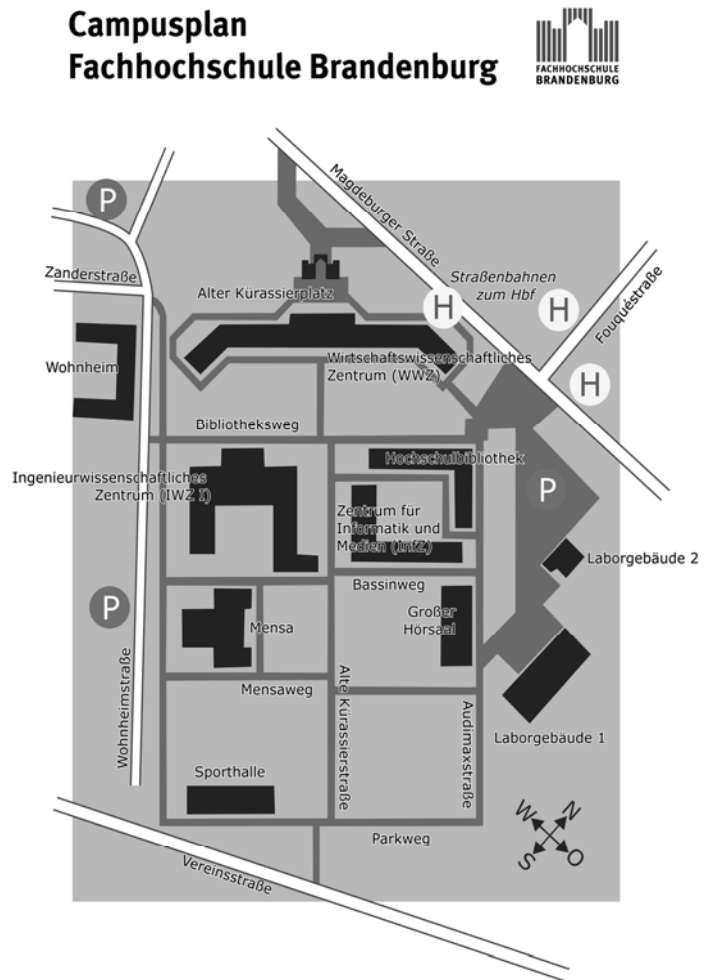
Arriving by train

Brandenburg an der Havel is located on the Berlin to Magdeburg train line. From Brandenburg's main train station (Brandenburg Hauptbahnhof) all trams go in the direction of the university. Get off at the tram stop called Fouquéstraße / Fachhochschule. You will hear an announcement and see the electronic sign.

Arriving by car

Brandenburg can be easily reached via motorway A 2. Take the Brandenburg exit (No78) and drive about 8 km until you reach town and remain on the main road. After passing the bridge, take the third right turn (turn right in direction of the halls of residence and straight ahead towards the campus).

Map of the campus



2. Facilities

Personal e-mail and Internet access

Perhaps one of the most valuable services Brandenburg University offers its students is the personal e-mail address which they receive shortly after enrolment at the University. The International Office will help you get such an e-mail address after your arrival in Brandenburg/Havel. This means you will always be informed about the different events organized by the university. Of course, there are computer labs at the university which you can use whenever you want to check your mails or surf the Internet.

Accommodation

The Studentenwerk Potsdam is the institution responsible for student lodging in the university's hall of residence. A room in the hall is reserved for each Erasmus student or assistance is given to find private accommodation. Just send the accommodation form to the International Office.

Most Erasmus students like staying in the hall because it offers many advantages such as:

1. A single room for € 220 or a single apartment for € 270
2. A large party room which can be used at any time for celebrating different events like birthday parties or traditional dinners.
3. Nearby supermarkets include Netto (10-min. walk) and Rewe (10-min. walk)...

...and of course the most important fact that the hall of residence is next to the university, meaning you practically step out of the main entrance and into the university☺.

University library

Opening hours during term: Monday - Thursday: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Opening hours out of term: Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Collection: more than 80,000 volumes of which 50,000 are on open shelves, 5.000 electronic books and a few databases, 114 subscription periodicals, 11 daily and weekly subscription newspapers.

The university library will soon become a key partner for accessing information necessary to complete your studies successfully.

Information on the literature available can be found using the online catalogue (OPAC) at the terminals located in the entrance hall of the library. You can use the computers in the library or your own notebook using WLAN. Space is provided for studying in groups.

There is an introductory training session for new library users which aims to show you how to make the most of the information resources found in the library. The librarians are always at your disposal and helpful in answering all of your questions. A new service "Rent a librarian" is on offer for scientific search.

University canteen: the "Mensa"

The Studentenwerk Potsdam not only takes care of the halls of residence, but also provides wholesome, good food. You can have lunch in the university canteen every day from Monday to Friday between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. There are four different set menus offered each meal-time. "Essen 1" costs € 1.20, "Essen 2" costs € 2,00 "Essen 3" costs € 2.50 and the alternative vegetarian meal costs € 2.30. A salad bar with fresh vegetables and salads is also at your disposal.

The university cafeteria is located in the same building. It contains about 50 seats for students who would like to enjoy a delicious breakfast, tasty sandwiches and hot coffee or who just decide to spend their break in the sun enjoying a bottle of Bionade. You can take advantage of the university cafeteria from Monday to Thursday between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. and on Friday between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Enjoy your meal!

Student union services

Semesterticket

The Brandenburg University Semesterticket is a cost-effective travel-card valid throughout the entire semester. It currently costs € 101.60 and is valid for the whole public transport network in Berlin and Brandenburg (VBB) as well as regional trains to Magdeburg. That means you can use all VBB transport (regional trains, buses, underground, tram) with this ticket. What about a trip to Berlin or Potsdam? The journey will take you only 20 minutes to Potsdam or 40 minutes to the centre

of Berlin. Find out more about train and bus connections at www.bahn.de or www.vbb-online.de.

University sports

The student union at the university, AStA, offers a wide-ranging programme to all students interested in sports. The sports activities on offer will help you ease the psychological stress of your studies by actively taking part in sport. Furthermore, they will improve your health and physical abilities. Last but not least, taking part in organised sports activities also means meeting interesting people ... and new friends 😊

At present the following sports courses are offered:

1. Basketball
2. Volleyball
3. Football
4. Table tennis
5. Yoga
6. Hockey
7. Judo
8. Handball
9. Water sports

If you have any other particular sports interests, don't hesitate to share them with the AStA sports representative. We welcome your suggestions! For more information, contact: astasport@fh-brandenburg.de

STUPA and AStA

If you need assistance or just good advice, you can always contact representatives of the STUPA (the student parliament) and AStA (the student union). In fact STUPA is the most important board which takes decisions connected with students' interests. It not only represents students but also administers funding which is part of the university students' budget. The STUPA is elected once a year by the University's students. If we compare Brandenburg University with Germany, the STUPA would be the University's federal parliament.

AStA is the executive committee of STUPA. Among its tasks are:

1. to provide financial controlling support
2. to improve the transparency of university policies for the students and to ensure responsibility is taken for them
3. to address students' social concerns
4. to inform the students about events organised by the university
5. to arrange parties and concerts
6. to organise sporting events and support sports groups
7. to give students seeking a job support and advice
8. to aid students searching for a new flat

The AStA office is located at the ground floor of the canteen building. For more information, see <http://asta.fh-brandenburg.de/> or contact: asta@fh-brandenburg.de.

IQ - the university pub

IQ is located in the basement of the main building and is open almost every night. Here you can hear music rich in styles and rhythms and have a drink or two. Special events such as Latino parties, concerts, Goth nights, karaoke and more are held at IQ, including private parties organised by students themselves.



If you want to party with other students, don't hesitate to contact: www.iq-studentenkeller.de or info@iq-studentenkeller.de.

3. Living in Brandenburg

Living costs

You should estimate spending between € 450 and 600 monthly.

Some examples to show price levels in Brandenburg:

A visit to the cinema	5,50 - 10 €
Beer in a pub (0.5l)	2 - 4 €
One litre milk	0,70 €
A roll / a loaf of bread	0,25 € / 1 - 3 €

Searching for a job

For those of you financing their studies at Brandenburg University by working part-time, we recommend checking the job exchange at Studentenwerk Potsdam www.studentenwerk-potsdam.de/fileadmin/jobangebote/jobangebote.html.

You can also use the online job exchange of the FH Brandenburg www.connecticum.de/web/url.php?url=175.

If you can't find a proper job with the help of these two institutions, you could always ask the responsible AStA representatives or just have a look at the job offers often pinned up on the notice boards on the walls of the University's main building.

You can also check out job offers in local newspapers or take a look at the Preußenspiegel and BRAWO, two newspapers which are distributed every Wednesday and Sunday for free. The "Berliner Morgenpost" newspaper is more useful for those who prefer to work in Berlin.

In any case the chances of finding a part-time job are good and it will only be a matter of time. Good luck!!

The weather in Germany - remarks by an international student

First of all I would like to give some advice to students arriving for the winter semester. I arrived in Brandenburg in October and was pleased to find a sunny and warm autumn. In November it started raining. The weather turned grey and windy and stayed that way for another three months. January, February and March were snowy and freezing. The locals said that they hadn't seen a winter as cold and snowy as that for many years. But that's the weather: always unpredictable somehow 😊

Normally in winter it hardly snows and you may even experience sunny and warm days. So be prepared for surprises.

To those spending the summer semester in Brandenburg, all I can say is not to expect hot, sweaty days typical of southern countries. After all, this is northern Germany 😊 However; the summer can be really wonderful. During my studies I enjoyed a lot of hot, sunny days and spent them sunbathing on the small lakeside beaches, bicycle riding and taking part in the innumerable outdoor activities organised by the university. So, don't forget your swimming gear and lots of good cheer!

Business hours of shops

Many of you may be taken aback by the opening hours in Germany, especially those of you from countries where you can go shopping seven days a week. You'd better forget about that in Germany! Why? According to German law all shops have to close on Sundays. But you'll be surprised how fast you'll adapt. The shops and supermarkets are open from 10 a.m. to 8 or 10 p.m. Monday to Friday. On Saturday small shops generally close by 3 p.m. at the latest, but large ones are open until 8 p.m. On Saturday, supermarkets such as Aldi are open until 6 p.m., Netto until 8 p.m. and Lidl and Rewe are open until 10 p.m. Don't forget to buy extra provisions for Sundays! But in case you do forget, you'll still "survive" on a big, delicious döner kebab for € 3.00 at any Turkish take-away open almost 24/7.

4. Around the City

A city in three parts

Strictly speaking, Brandenburg is a conglomeration of three cities divided by waterways: the Altstadt (old city), the Neustadt (new city) and the Dominsel (cathedral island). Stroll through the quiet alleys in the centre of town and you will find traces of history everywhere.

You'll gain an impression of the city walking past the small public garden plots in the town centre. In the summertime, when people tend to their flowers and relax in the sun, it's hard to believe that Brandenburg is in fact surrounded by industrial parks where steel, cars, prams, bicycles and toys were once manufactured. An industrial museum dem-

onstrates the importance of the large-scale steel production of the past.

(Source: www.campus-germany.de)

Living in Brandenburg/Havel

Comparing Brandenburg to Venice might be stretching things a bit, but there is at least as much water here as there is in Venice, and the water in Brandenburg is relatively clean by comparison. The surrounding areas are perfect for sailing, rowing, swimming, fishing, picnicking and hiking. When the lakes freeze over in a really cold winter, the city residents simply put on their ice skates. You can also take to the skies any time of the year for a bird's-eye view. The airport for glider planes is right next door. Fans of the arts will find a few cabarets and a theatre. In the summer, actors perform on stage in the cathedral, Pauli cloister, museum garden and theatre park. Once a year Brandenburg succumbs to jazz fever and thousands of fans groove to the music in Steinstraße.

Things are peaceful in the sprawling park and castle grounds in Potsdam, 40 kilometres away. Visitors can spend days strolling through the gardens, admiring the castles of Fredrick the Great and his family. And if you're still yearning for yet more culture, Berlin is just 70 kilometres away.

During the week, life in Brandenburg is quite relaxed. Students can get together on the lawns near the university buildings, grab a coffee in the student café or just stretch out in the sunshine. There are various beer gardens, pubs and restaurants. However, on the whole things are fairly quiet and the best bet for nightlife remains Berlin. More information at www.stg-brandenburg.de and www.stadt-brb.de.

(Source: www.campus-germany.de).

Leisure activities

Although it's a small town, Brandenburg offers a large variety of activities and attractions.

First of all the town is situated on the river Havel and it has also numerous stretches of water. A third of its territory consists of forests and twenty percent is made up of lakes, rivers and canals. Some of the

best and most interesting lakes are Beetzsee, Plauer See and Breitlingsee, offering relaxation and variety to nature-lovers and anyone looking to recharge their batteries. Walking along the river Havel in the town will lead you to many a park and leafy space.

It is of course not only the local scenery but also the buildings full of history that make visiting the town worthwhile. Apart from the numerous parks in town, there are cultural institutions such as the Brandenburg theatre, the Sonnensegel youth art gallery, the Wredow Painting School, the Fontane club, several museums, the music school and churches which contribute to the daily cultural life in Brandenburg.

Brandenburg's calendar of events is filled with highlights, festivals and parties such as the Dominsselfest (a festival held on Cathedral Island), the Roland festival held in May, the Havel party in June, Fischerjacobi in July, the Swingin' Brandenburg jazz and big band festival, the historical port festival held in summer and the Christmas Market with the Santa Claus parade in December.

5. Impressions

Bistra from Bulgaria

While some of you may already have an impression of Brandenburg from friends or other students who have studied in Brandenburg, I would like to share some of my experiences as an Erasmus scholar at Brandenburg University with you.

The town is small and quiet. You'll see plenty of couples walking around hand in hand, enjoying the nice weather and the tranquillity of the town.

The university campus is always lively and you meet many students taking a stroll, drinking coffee in the university cafeteria or lying in the sun on the wonderful green lawns of the campus.

Most students usually travel home for the weekend, so most IQ (the university pub) parties take place on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday.



Plenty of cool beer at € 1 to 2, an exciting atmosphere, new friends all await you there. IQ also has lots to offer you at the weekend: enjoy many different live DJs and unforgettable concerts. I went to a rock concert there and found it really difficult to go to lectures the next day 😊 You may have to pay an entry fee of € 2 or € 3 for concerts, but in my opinion it is really worth it.

Tuesdays could also be exciting, as well as IQ's free-entry karaoke party.

In case IQ isn't your thing, you can just cross the main street from the university and try out the atmosphere in HDO. HDO also offers free entry every Wednesday evening. At the end of the week you can enjoy live music at the pub and see popular young German bands for € 2 to 5. Moreover, HDO also organizes salsa dance courses and shows films once or twice a week. More information about HDO's monthly programme is available online (www.jukufa.de), posters around the university and at the entrance to HDO.

Other venues towards the town centre are about a 20-minute walk away and include the Fontane club, Manhattan and Ferrum. The atmosphere at Ferrum is fascinating and the prices are moderate. Become part of the unforgettable atmosphere at the Fontane club's theme nights; for € 2 to € 5 find yourself at an African, Hawaii, Oriental or rock party or in the company of famous international and German bands.

On Fridays and Saturdays the regional trains between Berlin and Brandenburg run hourly throughout the night with a small break between 2 and 5 a.m. It's the perfect opportunity to enjoy the atmosphere of the big city's night life; don't forget to take along your Semesterticket!

We often had traditional dinners together. I enjoyed immensely the evenings spent with my friends from Mexico, China, Spain, Poland, Hungary and Turkey. You will surely also enjoy folk music and delicious exotic meals in these evenings!

Brandenburg University also organises welcome and farewell parties for the Erasmus scholars at the beginning and end of each semester along with several activities, including canoeing and sailing on the Havel river, usually organised at the beginning of the semester.

The University Campus Summer Festival is held in June. It starts around 3 p.m. and continues until midnight. The atmosphere is amazing: many young people laughing, wonderful live music, different sport activities and of course plenty of German beer and delicious food. It's a great opportunity for Erasmus students to show off their culinary skills by preparing traditional meals!

The university organizes cultural events for the Erasmus students such as evenings at the cinema and theatre as well as visits to museums and exhibitions. In Brandenburg cinema tickets cost about € 6 - 10. On Tuesdays tickets are reduced to € 5 ("Kinotag"). In the summer there is an open-air cinema outside the town museum with tickets at about € 5. Theatre tickets are between € 5 and 8; student discounts are available.

There are more than enough museums in Brandenburg: all you need is time and good company. You will be able to visit almost all of them for free if you take part in the History of Brandenburg course 😊.

If you prefer sports, nature and fresh air, the town offers several small, inviting lakes which are perfect in summer for swimming, picnics and sunbathing on the beach. You can also rent a motorboat or go sailing.

You may also want to go to the sauna or go swimming at the Marienbad aquatic centre, which has several swimming pools as well as a fun pool in the summer.

As you can see there is so much to do in Brandenburg that it sometimes becomes difficult to combine it with your studies 😊. So be careful and don't forget that you are studying at a university and have a lot to learn 😊!!

Lukasz from Poland

Hi! I am Lukasz from Poland. I would like to tell you something about the exciting adventure of a semester I had in Brandenburg/Havel.

First of all, I want to emphasize that I had the enormous pleasure of meeting lots of great people here, striking up many international friendships - some of them, I hope for life, and feeling what German culture is really like.

Secondly, it's important for you to know that this was made possible by the great care taken by the people here: I mean the International Office, the professors at the university and also our German friends. We were given the opportunity to visit many beautiful places in Germany, for example Lake Constance, as well as to learn the most obscure and

interesting secrets of Brandenburg/Havel during the "History of the town Brandenburg" course.

Thirdly, my studies at Brandenburg University were a great chance for me to improve my *German* skills. We also had the option of taking foreign language classes at the University of Potsdam, so we had also the pleasure to study in this beautiful, historical city and to meet lots of international students there, too.

After my semester here I am sure that it was one of the most wonderful and enjoyable experiences in my life and it will stay with me forever!



Betty from Hungary

My first day here I felt as if I were on a different planet: new flat, new people and everyone spoke *German*! After a few days I began to understand what people were saying and felt more comfortable. I met great people from many different countries who have become very important to me. They symbolise how small (or big, for example, China) the world is. We did many things together: together we cooked, studied, partied and travelled. My studies in Brandenburg were really a lot

of fun and I can honestly say I had the time of my life. I wish you all a great stay, too!

Olga from Latvia

When I first thought about writing about Brandenburg University, I wondered what to write about. What can I say about the main building on campus? ...very beautiful, comfortable, very different to my university of Applied Sciences in Latvia, it looks like an old university: so proud, so serious, so respectable. What can I say about the learning process? Well organised, very interesting, one of the advantages I found that foreign students studied together with German students. We were not taught separately, yet there were small groups and everyone was able to take an active part in lessons. The equipment and facilities were also modern ...

The professors always made sure we were well prepared for classes and felt integrated. "If I speak too fast, say so. If you don't understand something, please ask me!" were things we heard from practically every teacher. The project groups were divided so that foreign students had to work together with others; this helped us to make contact, get to know others and integrate.



For further information, check out:

www.erasmus-brandenburg.de

or visit FH Brandenburg on Facebook!

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