

Exchange Report
Humboldt University of Berlin
Germany
Major: Gender Sexuality and Women's Studies
March 2016-August 2016

Germany's semesters are staggered differently from Simon Fraser's, and so I had a lot of time off in the Spring semester to make some extra money for my exchange, get packing and say goodbye to friends. I boarded my flight for Germany on March 22nd, 2016, full of excitement for discovering my life abroad. I arrived in Frankfurt, where I caught up with some relatives, got my German cell phone set up (plans are so cheap compared to Canada- make sure to bring an unlocked phone), got a German bank card and began looking for accommodation. I know some people looked ahead of time but I wanted to be able to call and set up appointments, instead of just over email. Within about four days I had gotten a lot of fake messages, but did manage to set up two legitimate appointments to view apartments. Humboldt also offers dorm rooms, if you apply in advance with your school application, but they are very far from the school and centre of the city. You'll find that you're limited by transit stopping in the early morning. I'm sure it's a great way to meet other students, but I think staying in the city is preferable if you're up for the challenge of looking patiently and carefully for a room.

Some highlights about Berlin: So many cafés and restaurants with excellent food and patio seating. In the summer, everyone sits outside. I also loved grabbing a beer from the corner store, and

heading to the park for an impromptu barbecue or a day at a lake. Berlin has over 800 lakes surrounding it, most accessible by public transit. I also loved taking salsa lessons and kayaking lessons through the university. Kayaking was in German, but as I already have the basic kayaking skills, so it was a great way to enjoy Berlin's nature, learn some language basics and make friends with locals.

Some of my favourite sites in Berlin:

- Teufelsberg- abandoned US listening station, now turned art commune
- Markthalle 9- food market on Thursdays
- Tadshikische Teestube

