

Study Report

University of Freiburg

by Vlad Strimbu

Hello there forestry student ! So you are thinking of choosing Freiburg as your home for one year? Excellent choice! My name is Vlad Strimbu, a Transfor-M student from British Columbia, and I have spent one great year in this part of Germany. Therefore I will try to give you some advice and impressions about my experience.

First of all, for more practical information you should look up the "Guide for students going to Freiburg University (by Miriam Isaac-Renton and Martin Kong)", also available on the TRANSFOR-M webpage. There you would be able to find most of the things you need to do and the places you need to go in order to have everything arranged for a good student life.

After you solved that trouble, I can give you some tips about the life in Freiburg.

The city of Freiburg is a university city, so there will be always lots of students everywhere. This means that you will probably have lots of good time and make a lot of friends. It is also a very beautiful town, with a very old history and architecture, situated just at the foothills of the Black Forest.

When you arrive, I really recommend that you participate in the international student orientation and the master program orientation. Through both you will have the chance to make some good friends (for me and another Transformer this was the opportunity meet the people with whom will later meet regularly at a beer and discuss philosophy, world problems and the meaning of life. How cool is that?) and get to know the important places of the city (including the beer gardens).

After that you can definitely start exploring the surroundings and even the entire country. There are plenty of things to visit around here (the source spring of Danube, Heidelberg, Lake Constance etc.). Also being so close to the Black forest you can go hiking to a new place every week-end (even more if you have time). France and Switzerland are really close by and are also very nice destinations for smaller trips (train or bike, I was able to bike to Strasbourg and back in 2 days). The nightlife and best part (German beer and bread) you will probably discover by yourself.

In order to get the most of your experience here you should really try to learn as much German as you can. Most of the people speak English here, but you will definitely have another experience if you can communicate in their language. In terms of school, try to choose the module you think it fits you best and there is always the possibility of changing between modules after the first days. Also try to get involved in the many activities that are happening at the University.

In the end, I once again strongly recommend coming to Freiburg for your year in Europe. For me it was an unforgettable experience. I was able to get a new perspective on forestry and on the other hand make some friends around the world that I could definitely visit 20 years from now.

If you have any questions or you would like to talk to me, contact me anytime at stribu.vlad@gmail.com