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## Studying Abroad Experience Report

- 1) **Are we allowed to publish your report anonymously on our webpage (without your name and e-Mail)?**  
[ X ] Yes [ ] No
- 2) **Are we allowed to forward your report and contact information to a Viadrina student on request?**  
[ X ] Yes [ ] No
- 3) **Please confirm hereby that you did not mention names of a third party (lecturer, landlord etc.)**  
[ X ] Yes [ ] No – in this case your report won't be published
- 4) **Please be aware that all the published photos in this report have to be taken by you and are not the property of a third party. By sending this report you are giving us the legal right of use for your pictures (if we publish the report). The copyrights still belong to you after all.**  
[ X ] Yes, I confirm that all photos are mine.

We would appreciate it if you could include the following topics (the report should be at least two pages long, there is no maximum):

- **Preparation:** Recommendations about preparing to leave, for example (if applicable) Visa, insurance, travel? How was the application process at the university abroad? Were there any introduction events? Were they obligatory and when did they take place? Was there a Buddy program or tutors?
- **Accommodation:** How did you find your accommodation? Any tips about mistakes that should be avoided? Were there any special student accommodations? The cost of rent? Which area of living would you recommend?
- **Studying at the university abroad:** How was the day to day life on campus? Was the attendance mandatory? Which courses did you take? Were you allowed to take courses from different faculties? Please attach links to the course list if possible. How did the exams take place? Were there any language courses? What is your overall opinion of the university in general? How well did the university take care of international/exchange students?
- **Day to day life and free time:** How high are the costs of living in total? How much money should be accessible monthly? How much does the public transportation cost? What can an exchange student do in their free time? What did you do?
- **Conclusion:** worst and best experience
- **Suggestions/Feedback:** In your opinion, how can we improve our exchange program especially considering consulting, information, application process at the Viadrina? – This section is just for the department of international affairs of the Viadrina and will not be published.

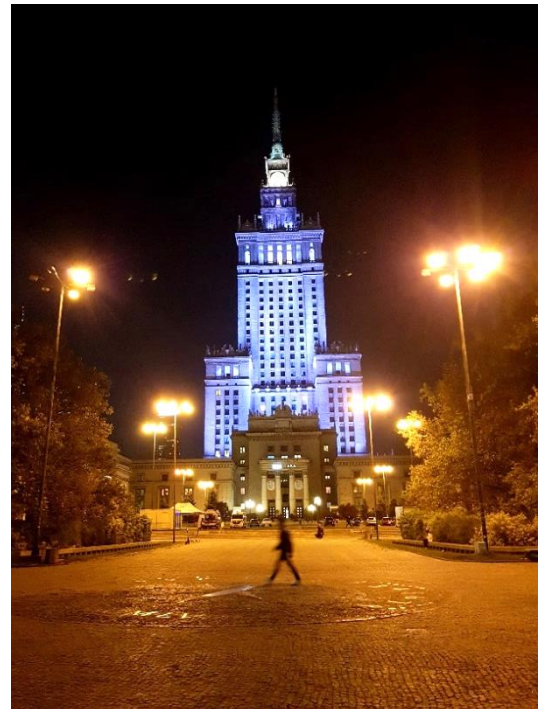
**Experience Report**  
**SGH Warsaw School of Economics (Poland)**  
**Double Degree (Finance & Accounting)**

### Preparation

In my case, the application process for studying within the Double Degree program at SGH Warsaw School of Economics started even before the beginning of my IBA Master's studies at Viadrina in April 2020. Therefore, as part of my application to study abroad I had to enclose the letter of acceptance to the IBA Master program. After receiving a pre-nomination to study at SGH in January 2020, in a meantime, special information meetings were organized at Viadrina in March 2020, during which every participant of the Erasmus+ program received all the important information regarding his or her study abroad. The next step of the application process was an online interview with the partner university, which took place in May 2020. The interview itself was conducted in a very pleasant and friendly atmosphere, and its key objective was to get to know us, as prospective students, and our motivation to study at SGH. A few months later, at end of September 2021, I was formally nominated by Viadrina to study at SGH, starting in the spring term 2021. Soon after I was contacted directly via e-mail by SGH and received information on the enrolment process together with respective deadlines. The enrolment at the partner university took place online in October/November 2021 and part of the process was the selection of a study major at SGH within the Double Degree, which in my case was Finance and Accounting. At this point, I had to complete and submit my Learning Agreement and the Grant Agreement. After the submission of all necessary documents, I could start packing and preparing for my exchange year abroad. A few weeks before the start of the semester in February 2021, I received the information regarding the beginning of my exchange at SGH, including an invitation to a Buddy Program as well as an Orientation Week for incoming students. As a Polish citizen, I did not need to arrange any special formalities such as a Visa, health, or travel insurance in preparation for my exchange year in Poland. Therefore, except for its duration, the whole application process at the partner university was quite uncomplicated.

### Accommodation

During my stay in Warsaw, I decided to look for private accommodation. A key reason for that was more flexibility in terms of the location, price as well as the fact that as a Polish native speaker I know the market well enough to find accommodation myself. However, if you decide to look for private accommodation online it is important to be cautious as there have already been accidents of frauds, especially on foreigners, and such fraudulent flat rental offers tend to appear on the internet at the beginning of the semester when most students look for an accommodation. The basic rule is to avoid offers that simply look "too good to be true" and always visit the accommodation in person, before signing any contract or transferring money. As for the area of living, the university itself is in Mokotów district, and any accommodation in this area will be close to the university. However, Warsaw is well connected in terms of public transport, and you can easily get to any place, irrespective of which area you live in. For those who are interested in student accommodation, the partner university also offers on-campus dormitories at affordable prices and in locations close to the university. I had a chance to live in one of the dorms – called "Sabinki" – during a summer school organized by SGH and can recommend it to international students. The student hall is well equipped with different facilities. To receive a place in a dormitory an application is necessary as places are assigned on a first-come-first-serve basis. As for the price, the rent for a place in a dorm for the whole semester (double room) equals approximately a monthly basic rent for a studio apartment in Warsaw, whereas the closer the location to the city center, the even higher the rent. More information about on-campus housing can be found here: [https://ssl-administracja.sgh.waw.pl/en/cpm/international\\_exchange/incoming\\_students/exchange/Pages/On-campus-accomodation.aspx](https://ssl-administracja.sgh.waw.pl/en/cpm/international_exchange/incoming_students/exchange/Pages/On-campus-accomodation.aspx)



Country: Poland

University abroad: SGH Szkoła Główna Handlowa w Warszawie

Beginning of lectures and end of exams abroad: 22/02/2021 until 28/02/2022

Study path at Viadrina: International Business Administration (Double Degree) [ ] BA [X] MA



EUROPA-UNIVERSITÄT  
VIADRINA  
FRANKFURT (ODER)



## Studying at the university abroad

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, unfortunately, I did not get much chance to experience daily life on campus. The first semester of my Double Degree program was conducted entirely online, including the exam session. Although we did not see each other in person with other students, the lectures organized via MS Teams were quite interactive and involved a great deal of teamwork. The second, winter semester 2021 already took place on campus and I very much enjoyed the possibility to take part in the lectures personally, especially since due to the Covid-19 pandemic my Master's studies so far were only conducted in a virtual form. Except for the tutorials, participation in the lectures in person was not mandatory, however, highly recommendable, as the lecture slides were not often published online. In total, I completed 16 courses within the Finance and Accounting major during my Double Degree program at SGH, 11 of which I took in the first summer semester and the remaining 5 in the winter semester. I decided for this unequal division of the number of courses taken in each semester on purpose since in the second, winter semester I also planned to write my Master's thesis. After all, the workload turned out to be well-balanced and manageable. As for the courses, their level of difficulty differs. Usually, the core courses (4,5 ECTS) require more workload than electives (3 ECTS), yet it is very much dependent on the lecturer and the syllabus. Also, for most courses, the total grade comprised different smaller components completed throughout the semester, such as a report, a presentation, and in the end a final exam. What I can recommend to future Double Degree students is to apply for the recognition of courses right after the completion of your first exchange semester at SGH. In this way, you make sure your courses are partially accredited throughout your stay and not altogether at the end, which may take some additional time.

## Day to day life and free time

The cost of living is for the most part dependent on the type of accommodation. Typically the price of renting a small, single apartment ranges from 500-600 EUR/month and the price for renting a room in a private accommodation amounts to around 200-300 EUR/month. This is however an objective observation, as high-standard flats in prime locations tend to be much more expensive. In addition, one must include the cost of food and the public transportation, which for the latter, with a student discount, is around 30 EUR (90-day joint ticket for the SKM-ZTM-KM public transportation in Warsaw zone 1) or 50 EUR (if zone 1+2). More information on public transportation can be found here: <https://www.wtp.waw.pl/en/ticket-tariff/long-term-tickets/>. Overall, it is advisable to possess at least a total budget of around 500-600EUR/month and with 1000EUR/month you can live quite comfortably in Warsaw.



Especially, some extra budget is recommendable if you want to experience all the past-time activities that Warsaw has to offer. The Polish capital is a very modern city that offers a broad range of diverse events, bars, restaurants, venues, museums, or tourist attractions that will please even the most sophisticated visitor. If you like spending time outside in nature, I highly recommend visiting the Łazienki Park. It amuses with its beauty throughout the whole year but especially in the summer season, from May till September, it is a venue where special Chopin Concerts take place.

## Conclusion

Looking back at my stay at SGH Warsaw School of Economics, I am very glad I had the opportunity to study in this place and will remember it as an experience of a lifetime. Although participation in the Double Degree program does require some extra work and effort, especially from the formal side, in the end, this effort is very rewarding, and I can recommend it to any student who would like to experience a true, international adventure.