

**EXCHANGE REPORT****Name**

Alice Broutart

**Year and semester for  
exchange**  
Winter 2022**Exchange university**

TUM

**Degree programme**

Environmental Engineering

## A semester in Munich!

### Before departure

I decided to go on exchange because it's a great opportunity to travel and discover a new country while studying. I picked Germany because I could see myself living there in the future and an exchange semester is a good way to feel out a place and see if it is for you. I picked Munich kind of randomly though, mostly because it was the biggest city in Germany where KTH had a partner university with classes I was interested in. I am chronically under-prepared so I didn't do much before leaving, and although I would recommend doing research before moving somewhere, things worked out fine for me. Moving to Germany is very easy as an EU-citizen, and there's really nothing to do ahead of time other than getting a train ticket.

### Upon arrival

The semester starts in mid-October in Germany and I got to Munich a couple of weeks before that to be able to move comfortably and get situated, which I think is always a good idea. There was also an introduction week for exchange students in early October with some events and informational meetings but if you need to skip that, don't feel bad because you won't be missing out on much. The one thing you do have to take care of in the first couple of weeks after moving is your "Anmeldung" with the City of Munich to make your move official, and this is a pretty easy process.

### Financials

I received the Erasmus scholarship for my internship which was about 400 euros. Unfortunately that doesn't get you very far in Munich which is a pretty expensive city. It's probably slightly cheaper than Stockholm but don't expect a big difference.

### Accommodation

Accommodation is definitely a struggle in Munich. TUM doesn't guarantee you housing, and they might send you a few offers for student rooms or shared rooms but there are very few so I wouldn't rely on that. A good idea is to check Facebook groups for students subletting their rooms in OlyDorf or Studentenstadt and you could get away with a 300-400 euro rent in nice areas. There's also WG-gesucht for shared apartments, which is where I found my room. I stayed in the Glockenbach Viertel which is super central and I had a big room for 620 euros a month, which is relatively cheap for the area.

## **University and studies**

TUM is a big university in Munich with several campuses, one in the center of Munich and the other two quite far out so it's super important to check which campus your classes are in to avoid having to live in the suburbs or commute for a long time if you don't want to.

The facilities themselves were a bit disappointing, with one library on the main campus which is always full and old lecture halls with no power outlets.

The classes themselves were really interesting though, and there's many courses to choose from. In terms of workload, I found it heavier than at KTH, although it was manageable. Another thing that I disliked was the fact that the semester isn't split up into periods like at KTH and you take all of your courses at the same time with one exam period in March which can be stressful.

## **Courses**

I took the following courses:

- Interactions of land-use and transport (3ECTS)
- Water and wastewater treatment engineering (6ECTS)
- Water resources and hydropower engineering (6ECTS)
- Sustainable Architecture, Urban and Landscape Planning (6ECTS)
- German B1.1 (4ECTS)
- Energy-Building-City

I didn't really enjoy the water treatment course because it was very in depth and content-heavy but if you want to specialize in that, it is probably a good choice.

I particularly liked Energy-Building-City, it was very well taught by a passionate professor so definitely a recommendation if you're interested in building physics.

Generally speaking, it's important to pick classes carefully depending on how you like to be assessed. Four of my six classes were only assessed with a final exam, making the exam period in March super stressful and giving me no room for error. There are however classes assessed on project work or individual smaller assessments throughout the semester. I wouldn't recommend doing more than three exams in the semester if you don't want to be overwhelmed.

### City and country

I quite liked Munich. It's a very pretty city with lots to see. It is pretty quiet and conservative though. The transportation system is great, it is also very cyclable and walkable which is very important to me. I particularly loved the Englischer Garten, which is a huge park in the middle of the city. Munich is also cool because there's a lot of nature really close the city as well as the Alps.



### Leisure and social activities

There is a big student community in Munich with TUM and LMU really close to each other and many opportunities to make international friends. Having a German roommate also helped me make local friends. There is a decent nightlife in Munich with a ton of bars and clubs, however going out gets pretty expensive so a lot of nights were spent in mine or my friends' apartments.



### Sustainability

I'm from France so it was easy to travel sustainably with a 6-hour train ride. Transport in Munich was also sustainable as the public transport is great and I never needed a taxi or an uber.