

Hamburg/Wedel

During my exchange semester I spent most of the time in the area of Hamburg. From Wedel the city center of Hamburg can be reached in about 40 minutes. As a city Hamburg is extremely beautiful with a lot of things to see. Hamburg is also very green city; I think one of the greenest big cities in Europe, if not the greenest.

In Hamburg I really liked the most to just walk around the various sights or have a beer in the area of Sternschanze.

The only negative side of living in Wedel was that it is pretty far away from Hamburg. It takes about 40 minutes to get from the dormitory to Hamburg central station and sometimes that bothered me a little bit. For example if I was having fun at Reeperbahn and did not come home with the train and bus after 01:00-02:00, I had to wait for a train that went at 5:00 and sometimes this was a little bit exhausting. But this is only a really small minus.

Wedel is also a lovely city. It is pretty small so there aren't a lot of things happening, but one thing I fell in love with was the river Elbe. Wedel is one of the most perfect places, if you just want to go relaxing by the river and see big container ships passing by very close. I found it very beautiful. I loved taking walks along the riverbanks and beaches of Elbe and afterward maybe go to the Wedel Beach Club which is a heaven on earth on a sunny day.

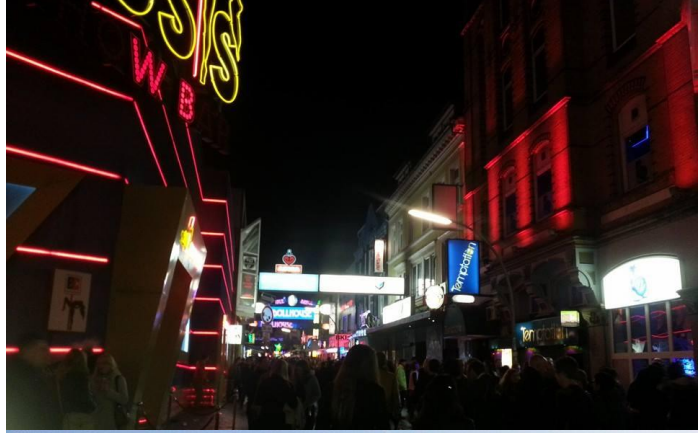
Staying in Wedel

I lived in the student dormitory near the school. The dormitory offers a cheap accommodation for staying in Wedel. The student dormitory consists of some apartments; each one is shared by six students.

Personally I liked living in the student dormitory very much. I got to know students of the FH-Wedel before university started and this made it much easier to settle in Germany. My roommates were very nice and I became good friends with them.

There is also a nice yard where sometimes are barbecue parties which are very nice.

One thing that bothered me a little bit was the long distances from the dormitory to everywhere. Walking to the nearest Grocery Store took about 15-20 minutes. Also to go to the city center or Wedel train station - this took about 30 minutes by walking. A bike would have



been nice; sometimes I could borrow someone's bike from the dormitory.

However, it might not be for everybody though, since in some apartments the tenants don't take that much care of cleaning, but for me it was a quite nice experience to stay at that dormitory.



Courses

The school had made staying in Wedel for me as easy as possible. The courses were confirmed long before the start of the school. I had to find out information about the courses from some teachers though, but our tutors were very helpful in that.

Most of the courses at the university are taught in German, so you need a certain level of German language skills. However, there are also courses taught in English for example in Computer Science and Business Administration.

A German language course was also offered. The teacher was from another school and the courses also took place at another location. The German teacher was really friendly and easy going, though we learned a lot, since his classes were well planned and structured. The classes consisted mostly of making exercises or discussing in German. I think it really helped me learn how to speak the language here.

In addition to the German language course I had 5 courses in FH Wedel; a cyptography workshop, Algorithmics, Business Game, Business English and a Seminar, which consist of writing a detailed report about a special topic.

For Business Game and Business English I did not really have to do that much stuff, but the other courses for sure required a lot of work. I would recommend to the incoming students to really do all the homework and use the possibility to ask for help from the teachers if something is not clear.

The cryptography course I found the most interesting, since it required a lot of programming and even though the level was master level, it was not that hard to keep up with the course. Algorithmics on the other hand was really hard for me even though many of the stuff required from me were very basic.

All in all I liked the courses and the way of studying at FH Wedel more than in our school. But the future exchange students I really have to warn: Many courses require a lot of work.



Tutors

In the beginning of the semester we got some tutors, who helped us to get a good start at the university. They were super nice and super helpful. Every problem I had to solve, was it to find a way home or translating some German e-mail for example, the help was always there and easy. I have also to mention that the arriving to Wedel was made very easy for me. Most of the mandatory stuff had been taken care of already before I arrived. Also they helped me to get all the required documents to stay in Wedel as an exchange student.

One of the tutors, Ilya, came to pick me up from the airport on the first day and took me to my apartment. They even helped me carry my heavy luggage up to the apartment ;-).

After the last week of university there was a trip to Berlin offered by the university. So we, the exchange students and the tutors, could spend a weekend in Berlin. It was really fun; we did a lot of sightseeing and the highpoint: It was the weekend of the final of the world cup. Therefore, we could celebrate the final at the big fan fest beside "Brandenburger Tor".

Summary

I will never forget my exchange semester in FH Wedel. Everything was very well done and it is hard for me to think about any flaws. I had a lot of fun and gained many new and great experiences.

All the tutors deserve big applause since they did their work very well. Hamburg and Wedel as cities are very beautiful and I loved visiting Hamburg often. So you always have a lot to do. Also Berlin is one of the nicest cities I've ever been to.

I would definitely suggest everyone to make this wonderful experience of an exchange semester. You will not regret – in contrast you will be enthused!

