

Erfahrungsbericht – Salim Soltani aus Afghanistan

Student an der Universität Würzburg



Hello,

my name is Salim Soltani and I am 24 years old. I was born in Bamyan, this is a city in central Afghanistan. By the way, Bamyan is famous and well-known for its two great Buddha statues, which are located there.

Currently, I am pursuing a Remote Sensing master degree at the Würzburg University.

I have done my bachelor degree in Geography and worked as a GIS and Climate Assistant with the UN-Environment program in Afghanistan, whilst I have gained practical experience in Remote Sensing and Geo-spatial data analyses for Ecology and Environmental Protection.

Therefore, I had noticed my strong interest and passion for Remote Sensing, especially in the field of ecology. The Remote Sensing master program is the place where I can deepen my knowledge in the field of Ecosystem Service modelling, Forestry and Agriculture monitoring.

My time in Germany began a year ago. First, I came to München in June 2017, there I attended a German language intensive course that lasted for four months – actually that was a door that let me dive into society and interact with people. It was fascinating for me to be able to communicate using a new language. During the beginning of the winter semester in October 2017, I moved to Würzburg. I chose the university of Würzburg, because I knew some facts about the university, especially about the Remote Sensing department. Another reason was Würzburg's friendly atmosphere for students. Studying at the university encouraged me to continue my studies further and I will definitely start my Ph.D. and do scientific researches in my field of study.

What I really like about Würzburg is that the people are very nice and friendly, you feel like home here. My favorite place is the river side of down town, where I can get rid of stress and can enjoy walking alongside of the river, also having the romantic view of the sunset and a glass of wine. Nevertheless, I miss my sport bicycle, that I was riding in my hometown - and I still try to find people, who are interested in mountain cycling. The most significant difference between my homeland and here is the weather, but I really like the summer-weather here.

Talking about other differences, for example German foods: usually it's delicious, but when I'm at home, I like to eat the so-called "Qaboly", which is basically rice and meat. But to sum up, I have to say that I had a very smooth start here in Germany. With the help of the tutor program of the Studentenwerk, I was introduced to my German classmates and they were taking me to different events that basically helped me to cope with homesickness. Although everything was new for me and still very interesting, finding an accommodation was challenging at the beginning.

Currently, I am living in the dormitory of the Studentenwerk Würzburg in the Leo-Weißmantel-Straße. I like my apartment, everything is fine about the place. In my spare time, I sometimes do some fitness as well as swimming.

Being an international student, looking for a good university and a nice city to live, Würzburg is definitely the right place to follow your dreams. Sometime I would like to visit more European countries, especially the Scandinavian countries, and I would love to see the north pole once. I think being an international student, you have the chance to experience new cultures, new scientific environments, you get to visit new places and meet different people from all around the world. It definitely is a great and unique time.