

Kate Kissane (Bergen, 2024–2025)

Academic culture at Bergen is different from UCD. Classes tend to be a little more relaxed, with fewer contact hours for more credits. In certain classes, 75% attendance at lectures is mandatory in order to take the exam. Exams are taken digitally, and essays and take-home exams are also popular means of assessment. If you wish to take classes in English, it is likely that you will take classes designed for exchange students. The university offers Norwegian courses for beginners, but a knowledge of Norwegian is not necessary for everyday life because everyone speaks English.

Bergen is a very popular destination for students with a love of the outdoors. There are endless opportunities to get outside into the beautiful nature that surrounds the city. Hiking and camping trips are popular. There is also a large climbing community. In addition, BSI is the city's student sports group, with teams from football to ultimate frisbee. Norwegians are very sporty, and the BSI groups are a great way to get involved with student life. There are also choirs, activist groups, and other indoor societies such as a film club. Bergen has a very active ESN (Erasmus Student Network) which organises events and trips for Erasmus students.

Practical Information:

The students' union Sammen provides guaranteed housing for international students. They have many locations throughout the city, but most students live in Fantoft, which is about 5 km from the city centre. There is a light rail stop in the complex, and it takes 30 minutes to get to the university. For students who are only staying for a semester, it is very likely that they will get placed in a shared room in Fantoft. There are also private accommodation options, but they are less common for exchange students because they are more expensive and not guaranteed. Bergen has an excellent public transport system. The Bybannen or light rail service runs from 5am until midnight and comes every 5 to 10 minutes. There are also a wide range of buses and intercity rail services. Car rental for weekend trips is also very easy as the airport is on the Bybannen line.