

Erasmus Experience

I am a student from a small, beautiful country called Albania, studying in the University of Tirana in Computer Science program. Dealing with small every day problems made me think of going somewhere abroad and gaining new experience. So, I heard about this exchange program called Erasmus. I didn't know much about it at first but after a lot of research I learned how it functions and what documents are required. An email came to me explaining opportunities we have with Erasmus program in different countries. University of Technology in Bialystok/Poland was one of them. So I thought why not to take the risk and apply. Fortunately the documents didn't take that much time to prepare. I applied together with my best friend. When our confirmation came we were very excited and started thinking about the new experience that was coming. Everything was so quick and time past so fast. Before our flight we were always in contact with our mentor from Poland, from the ESN office and the staff from IRO office. They are very helpful with any problems that you may have. When the day came butterflies were having a party in my stomach. The hardest part was saying goodbye to friends and family for such a long time. It was our first time flying and the best thing is that I had to experience all this with my best friend. The flight was a bit tiring but the funniest part was when we fell asleep in the train to Bialystok and we almost lost our station. But things went as we expected. The mentors were waiting for us and helped us reach the dorm and do all the documents needed on the other day. One thing that stressed us was the cold weather, but we got used very soon. The teachers were very well prepared and available at any time to help you with homework and lessons. Basically, we got a taste of what studying abroad means. Studying abroad for a limited period of time as part of an Erasmus exchange shows you what all this means and you can find out afterwards if you want to do it for the long run. Not to forget a considerable reason why Erasmus program is very good. You receive financial support. Every Erasmus student receives a grant, with the amount depending on the home country and destination that helps you cover your everyday expenses. Making friends is also one important thing. Portugal, Spain, Turkey, Pakistan, Tunisia friendship is something universal in human nature, regardless of language, culture, religion or ethnicity. It's a wonderful thing to know you have friends beyond the borders of your country, who you can always visit or come to visit you, with whom you will always have a lot to share even though you don't see each other every day. Once you are already studying abroad for your exchange program, travelling becomes a part of everyday life. After all, it would be such a pity not to set money aside and go visit some neighboring countries or explore everything your host country has to offer. And here comes again the hardest part. Going back home. After such a long time here we were starting to feel like home and even miss Bialystok when we were traveling. Everyone should consider trying this exchange program because Erasmus is not a year in your life, is a life in a year.