



NEO ALBANIA
National Erasmus+ Office of Albania

“I am Erasmus+ addicted, and you?”

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Home Institution: European University of Tirana
E+ Programme: Exchange Students
Host Institution: West University of Timisoara
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My Journey towards Erasmus+

My name is Romela Qytyku, student at European University of Tirana. I am currently studying Msc in Computer Engineering at EUT. It was my second year of bachelor studies when I had the courage to apply for an exchange program such as Erasmus+. I saw some calls



for Erasmus+ in Poland, Italy, Sweden, Latvia and Romania and I don't know why and how, I chose

Romania. It was something that told me “Go to Romania” and I haven't regret my choice. Students tend to go to rich countries such as Italy, Finland, Sweden, Italy, etc, but they forget that there are some other countries who offer the same education level in a cheaper way. Think of the good thing, you'll have more money left and more travels to plan. 😊

As I said before, I heard for the first time about this programme from the Erasmus+ Office in my university and it was very easy to fill the application. All you have to do was to get some documents such as: Record Transcript, CV, ID/Passport, Motivation letter and reference letter. The most important document to fill is the Learning Agreement, this is the document which will have all the courses you will attend at the host university and how they will be equivalent with the ones at your home university. You should pay attention to the credits of each course so you will not have to take extra courses when you come back if you have less credits. I

recommend asking help from professors or the Head of your Department. A lot of people ask me if the grades were important to apply and win, well they had a significant role but not the main role. All you needed to show was that you are willing to get all of this experience. You need to have an active, brave “soul”. You should be easy-going, friendly and willing to go out of your comfort zone.

My Erasmus in Timisoara

My trip was a little scary and painful because I had a mini surgery 24h before the trip. When I arrived in Timisoara, I had everything organized. You get an email at the moment you get accepted with all the instructions, they asked me if I wanted to stay in a dorm and if I needed an Erasmus Buddy(he/she is someone from the host university who will help you with every question or need for help that you might need/have).

They reserved me a place in a dorm. I had to share it with another student. I had to pay only 32 euros/month everything included, and it was just 5 minutes from university. If you wanted to have an apartment and share it with someone else, the cost of it was approximately 150-300 euros.



I got a student card which helped me to travel for free with train all over the country, to have discounts for museums, theatres or other activities. I also got an Erasmus student card which had a lot of discounts in some flights, hotels another rental thing that students buy or rent in order to travel or study. I recommend attending all the ESN activities (Erasmus Student Network), because is the best way to find friends easier and have a lot of fun. My English got better only by being active in their activities. I got a lot of new friends who I still have contacts with. We're also planning to have a reunion soon.

A lot of people asked me if the money is enough. Well it depends how you spend your money. I got 750 euros/month and I got 80% of all the amount of money of 5 months at the beginning. I traveled a lot, I visited 7 countries. I had a lot of fun, bought a lot of things, went to parties (I don't drink alcohol or smoke), but according to my friends all these things were cheap enough. They had UBER which is similar with Taxi but cheaper, and you had to pay a very small amount of money to go to malls or clubs. I didn't know about it when I first arrived, so I paid 10 euros for the Taxi from the Airport to City center. I could have paid 6-7 or less, who knows. My average costs for a month were 200-300 euros. I bought some cooking dishes to cook, because the dorm had a shared kitchen with every equipment needed in each floor of the dorm. I ate at the canteens too, a full meal was for 2.5 - 4 euros (soup, salad and first plate). I loved SHAORMA, and everybody called Timisoara to Timishaorma. You should try!!!

Now let's talk about the university. All the professors were amazing. They helped me with everything I needed. In Timisoara students can choose if they want to study in English or Romanian, so it was easy for me to be in

classes with other students despite Erasmus+ ones. They were very practical, and I got 10 to every course I took. When I came back, I needed to take 1 extra exam because I didn't get enough credits due to the fact that I quit a course which was a little to advanced for my degree. I just talked to my home university professor and the ones from the Erasmus+ office in Timisoara and everything got solved. So, YES, you can change your Learning Agreement only at the first 2 weeks of academic year. When you come back home you just must go to the Erasmus+ office and they will tell you how to proceed. REMEMBER, take care of you LEARNING AGREEMENT. This is the document which will convert your courses and grades from the host university to your home university.

Remember to enjoy every moment of your experience, do not focus only in your studies but find time to travel and make friends, because these are the moments you will always remember. And trust me and the others when say: ***"Once Erasmus, Always Erasmus"***.

I am Erasmus addicted, so JOIN this addiction club now!