



NEO ALBANIA
National Erasmus+ Office of Albania

“Erasmus+ was a lifetime experience”

Student: Marina XHAHO

Home Institution: Agricultural University of Tirana.

E+ Programme: Exchange Students

Host Institution: Pamukkale University

Period: September 2018-May 2019

Erasmus+

My name is Marina Xhaho. I am currently living and working in my home city Vlora, Albania. I graduated in food biotechnology and I am now working as a specialist in Vlora Municipality. I started my journey as a student in Faculty of Natural Science in Tirana for my bachelor's degree and decided to attend Agricultural University of Tirana for my master's degree.



The main reason for choosing Agricultural University of Tirana was because of the possibilities to study abroad. I finished my first year of studies at my university and I heard about this programme during classes from my teacher. After seeing also printed announcements at the entrance, I decided to give it a try. First I went to the international office and asked about the procedure. I applied call spring 2018 for the second year of study. It was an easy procedure. I applied with these documents: Erasmus+ exchange application form, Learning Agreement, Transcript of records, Language certificate, Incoming students ID information, two photos and copy of my passport. Learning Agreement I studied together with my professor because they decide if the subjects are compatible or not. Not every subject was included in the host institution. It is important to complete the credits so me and my classmate (she applied too and got accepted

with me) decided to take biotechnology course extra and resulted better for our academic growth.

My Erasmus My Pamukkale

When I arrived in Denizli, a welcoming Erasmus+ local volunteer was waiting for us and took us to our home. I used to live in a neighborhood where all the residents were Erasmus. Every night we gathered together and exchange our cultures, pictures of our country and also



teach each other words from our language. The most wonderful part is this Erasmus Student Network in Turkey where local students that once were Erasmus helped voluntarily new Erasmus to adapt in Turkey.

Every country you will go as Erasmus has his own policy for residence permit. I will not lie, it was a little difficult to gather documents, but the fun part I shared this

experience with other Erasmus, so I was not the only one having troubles.

During my staying in Pamukkale University the school offered opportunities for foreign students, so every week we travelled in different destinations : Pamukkale, Antalya,Istanbul,Kaleiçi,Marmaris,Akyaka,Buldan, Ulubey Kanyonu,Ephesus,Laodicea,Three days camping in Izmir with international students from all cities in Turkey etc.I also tried bungee jumping, skii, paintball,bowling,archery etc.

The University also made us a memory book that i brought home with me. I made a lot of friends from all over the world. The best memory was a Christmas tree that we decorated with common things that we had: keychains, necklace, Turkish Airlines tag, ribbons.

I had applied only for one semester, but my host institution encouraged me to apply for the second semester and work my thesis in their laboratory. So, I repeated documents again as the first procedure, but this time was easier.

Studying my thesis in Pamukkale laboratory helped me during my future career. I presented my thesis in my home institution and i got maximum for my work. After graduation my CV was highly qualified, view that it involved one year of study abroad and working in foreign laboratory with better techniques and equipments.



It is an open window if I want to extend my academic career abroad for Phd or another master's degree. I would highly recommend, go, have fun, not only you will learn things as a student you would never learn as a tourist , you will also give yourself opportunities for the future.

Let me tell you my Erasmus journey will not finish here, because I can go Internship, for Training as an employee

or a Phd. My adventure has just begun. What are you waiting for?

“MY ERASMUS JOURNEY HAS NOT FINISHED YET, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?”