



“Create beautiful memories with Erasmus +”

ZKE + Albania
Erasmus + Albania National Office

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Home Institution: University of Vlora “Ismail Qemali”
E+ Programme: Exchange Students
Host Institution: University of Applied Sciences Kalisz,
Poland
Period: February - April 2020

My journey to Erasmus +

My name is Xhino Çala and this year I finished my master studies. Initially for the Erasmus + program I was known through a friend who had won an Erasmus scholarship in Latvia. At that time, I had just started my master studies and this opportunity seemed brilliant to me for a student experience.

In December 2019 I saw an online announcement on the university website which provided practical scholarships which also matched the study program I was pursuing. I immediately decided I had to try it and the next day I went to the Foreign Relations Office to get information about the process. Everything became simple with the support of the office and within two days I managed to complete the application which was submitted to the office to make the selection. After about a week I was notified that I had won the scholarship, I was excited and happy in the same time.



Then the procedures started with the office of the host university, it is a flow of steps that are made between the two universities and the support has

been at all times unsparing by both parties. By the end of January everything was ready to start. February which also corresponded to the semester

the last of the master which was the practice. I was very enthusiastic about this new and unique experience in my life.

My experience in Kalisz

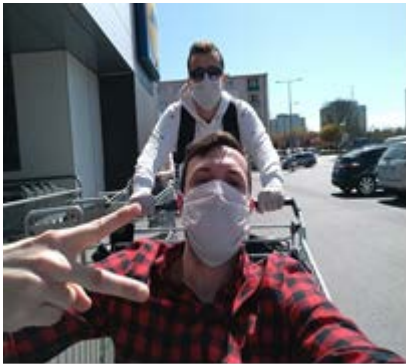
The trip was an experience in itself as I stayed another night in another Polish tourist town before arriving at the university dormitory. After I mobilized in the room where I was going to stay, I started to meet other Erasmus students who were from different countries of Europe but also from Turkey, everything was better than what I expected, starting from the staff and other students, and up to the conditions of the environment where I would stay.

Then the internship started at the office of IT Technicians at the university, everyone was very hospitable and ready to help with anything I would need.



From the first week of arrival I made the first trip to the country with a group of students in one of the most visited places in winter tourism, was an impressive experience. The city was one of the oldest in the country and here you can see the consequences of World War II. It was a small town but very beautiful and developed with all the conditions that people can make a satisfying living.

But it did not take long and the quarantine started because of Covid-19, and with it everything stopped.



The studies were transferred online and we stayed in the dormitory all day, but the conditions were good and we had something to have fun with as we also had a cinema hall

where we had parties and we watched movies, we also had different games like ping pong etc.

Then I move to a university campus where I stay with only 21 Erasmus students for about 3 months. It would turn into one of the most beautiful adventures I had ever had as I am also the type with the spirit of adventure.

We had a very large space with football fields and volleyball and with nature parks. We had a great time and became like a family with each other, are memories that will remain in my memory for a long time. The internship ended successfully online and closed with maximum appreciation.



Due to the pandemic and the closure of the borders, I had to stay longer and postpone my return to the homeland, communication was constant with the university offices to find a way back and it did not

take long to find a repatriation ticket to Albania. The host university enabled the transport to another city from where the departure by bus to the airport in Germany would take place, everything went well and the arrival in Albania was done without any obstacles.

What I can say about the Erasmus experience is that even if I were given the opportunity to do it again I would not hesitate for a second as it is the most beautiful thing that can happen to a student.



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