

Erasmus mobility narrative final report

We all hear about Germans and how punctual, accurate and hard-working people they are, before this year started I have been just on a short trip to Germany and barely saw it for real, so I was really excited and looking forward to this year.

Before I got know about the Erasmus program I was learning the German language during my spare time and when such an opportunity came, I applied directly and I saw in it a chance to improve my language skills, get to know the German culture and acquire professional experience as well.

Starting from the registration period and all the paperwork, the host university (LMU) showed professionalism and efficiency in their work and organization. They offered three different options of language preparation courses during the summer before the semester starts, I chose one of them and it was a 4-weeks intensive course, in which we learned a lot, got exposed to the culture and already started to make friends from all over the world. The course that I chose was really great, especially the teachers were outstanding and very nice and helpful.

Nevertheless, once you are in Munich and it is about the end of September, then visiting Oktoberfest is a must! With its crazy atmosphere, the Bavarian traditional clothes (Dirndl and Lederhosen), its specially brewed beer, the people from all over the world who are coming especially to attend the festival it is absolutely a special one and worth a visit.

One thing is worth mentioning, which cannot be taken for granted is the host university provided most of the Erasmus students a room at the dorms, which is a huge help considering the flats market in Munich in which it is really difficult and very expensive to rent a flat. That being said, living at the dorms was a great experience that made my stay even more comfortable and pleasant.

I was very impressed how well organized everything was, we have got the schedule of the semester early enough to check out where the classes are being held and how our day to day life would look like, each one of the Erasmus students was assigned to a "Study-Buddy" who is basically a student at the host university who volunteered to help coming students in the beginning, directing them and answering any questions they have.

The schedule was very organized, the professors were punctual, the studying system was very interactive and diverse which engaged students more into the process and made it in a really interesting manner.

The professors were very nice, polite and what I liked the most and admired is that they treated the students as colleagues already and were respectful. As part of the learning process were different kinds of classes; lectures, seminars, tutorials, Bedside teaching, Exercises and simulations. Each type of class focused more on one or more aspects that differ from other

types, for instance the simulations were classes that put you in front of real actors who are playing a patient's role and they saw how you handle and deal with the situation and bring it as close to real life situation as it possibly could.

Moreover, the amount of resources that they made available for students for studying were tremendous, whether it was E-learning on different platforms on the internet or books that you could borrow without any charges from the library of the medical faculty.

ESN MESA and tuTURIA were very active and organized so many events, daytrips, parties and different gatherings for low prices. Something that brought the international students more in touch with each other and closer, which allowed each one to make so many friends there. They felt responsible to expose the international students to Germany, the German and Bavarian culture, fests, cuisine and nature.

In the beginning already I knew that one semester is too short and I extended my stay for another semester and I loved it, it was a lifetime experience that made me develop as a person, as a student, as a professional and allowed me to meet new people from every corner of the world, which by the way widen the person's horizons and makes him sometimes think and see things different and learn to accept others no matter how different they can get.

During this year, I have got the chance to make some internships and see how the hospitals in there are working and how the staff are and the way they handle things in front of patients professionally. I got scrub into some surgeries and be in the operating rooms and it was interesting to experience the differences in between the countries and see how things function under pressure.

It is not easy to sum up a whole year that was full of new experiences, new challenges, obstacles, happy moments, sad moments and to try to put all that into one report is pretty challenging. But what I can say is that I highly recommend the Erasmus program to anyone who is looking for more, who is thrilled to explore a new country that he finds interesting. Because being on a trip to some city, you barely see and experience that city. But once you live in that city during such kind of program, it gives you the chance to experience the city and the country way more and opens up many new options for the future. Whether it is career we are talking about or just for the personal development.

Sincerely yours,

Kareem Mawasi















