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Master, 1st year

Hasselt University (Belgium)

February 10, 2020 . About 6 months ago on this day I entered a new phase of life. From this day on, everything had to change- the unforgettable and memorable days began. I can tell without exaggeration that Hasselt University is one of the best universities in Europe. They met us there with open arms and helped with any issue. Adapting to the environment was quite quick, as we were surrounded by caring, compassionate staff. Local students were always willing to support both in academic life and in everyday counseling. I was lucky enough to study under the guidance of the best lecturers, to learn more from them to enrich the knowledge base. I was especially fascinated by the practice of teaching at our university, when students were divided into groups, joining other local students in the same group, working with them to make the knowledge transfer process easier and more interesting. As a result of interactive games, presentations, group projects, and conducting lessons together, we were able to develop teamwork skills. I consider that studying for one semester at Hasselt University was a turning point in my life. It is too early to tell the story of success in this case, because I think that the seeds sown in knowledge should be harvested after some time. Now I am sure that every

student, at least once, should study abroad, get out of his/her comfort zone. It is already a great success to be a part of this program because it gave me independence, freedom, and a sense of responsibility. I would very much like to volunteer during my studies, but as a result of the spread of the virus, our mobility was limited, we had to isolate ourselves for 3 months. The lessons continued online, not giving in to the lessons on campus. However, we all missed our university life. During the exams, despite the tension, we were very happy to see our friends again (albeit keeping our distance and wearing a mask).

I know that the success stories of the students of this period will be different from the stories of all the other years, but in any case, it was already a success for me to be nominated in Hasselt University, even to hold classes in these conditions, for which I'm endlessly thankful.



Sasun Minasyan

Faculty of Regulation of Economy and International Economic Relations

Master, 1st year

Hasselt University (Belgium)

To be an Erasmus+ student and to represent your home country at your receiving university means to get ready to face a lot of both predictable and unpredictable challenges and responsibilities without which one may not benefit from this program. Prior to my arrival at the host university, I set a motto for myself, i.e. “Get out of the comfort zone and think outside the box”. These are some of the prerequisites I think an Erasmus student may consider when planning his/her success route.

Studying at Hasselt University in Belgium, as one of the universities in Europe following high-quality and competitive curricula, I acquired the most up-to-date knowledge on foundations of my field of study, as well as on new-born studies. Furthermore, I believe the latter will help me develop and suggest innovative ideas for my later contribution to the field.

As mentioned earlier, the Erasmus semester may be unpredictable sometimes. Moreover, the recent pandemic didn't turn over the international students who were excited to have an outstanding experience, attend classes and make a lot of friends from around the world with different backgrounds,

do some travelling, get to know the culture and the history of the host country, discover its secrets... Although the majority of my expectations was somewhat met, I value everything I got from this program which I am grateful for. Therefore, I would like to encourage future Erasmus+ participants to really appreciate every moment they have, even if the times are challenging and discouraging or if everything is going well. What is more important is to take risks and to face challenges because this is the key to the best experience and the key to success.



Mery Petrosyan

Faculty of Accounting and Auditing

Master, 1st year

University of Economy in Bydgoszcz (Poland)

Hi, I am Mary from the Faculty of Accounting and Auditing, ASUE. In the second semester of the previous academic year, I studied with the Erasmus+ student exchange program at the University of Economy in Bydgoszcz, Poland. The most influential and accurate words are not enough to describe the impressions I have received over the past few months.

International friends, university atmosphere, cultural confusion, typical Polish cold and rude attitude: these were just a few of the many, but at the same time, exciting part of my daily Erasmus life.

Participants who have continued their studies at foreign universities through the student exchange program will prove that we are carrying out a so-called "small diplomatic mission" in that region, introducing our country to foreigners, from history to customs, culture to national cuisine. During this period, each of us became a model of his country in the most positive way.

I was the first Armenian student at the Bydgoszcz University of Economy, so I realized the growing responsibility to be the first to represent my country, both on the university staff and international students and the Polish people in general.

First of all, Erasmus is an educational program, during which I got acquainted with the Polish educational culture, teaching methods, teacher-student direct-motivating relations. The university life was just very interesting, different from the hardened extracurricular lectures and exam questionnaires. In addition to its many educational benefits, Erasmus also contributes to the development of the student's personal qualities, worldview, self-knowledge, and self-expression.

I am sure that the impressions I received and the wonderful time I spent will remain in my mind for a long time.



Raya Harutyunyan

Faculty of Finance and Accounting, ASUE Gyumri branch

Master, 1st year

Cracow University of Economics (Poland)

Hello. I am Raya from Gyumri. Well, I think 2020 was a different, weird, maybe breakthrough year for all of us. In my case, the reason was not only the coronavirus. Just this year I had the opportunity with Erasmus+ program to continue my education for one semester in Krakow, a city of 200,000 students, which is now, I can confidently say, the best and most beautiful city in Poland.

Actually, I have been thinking about studying abroad for a long time, and when I was selected as a participant for this program, I realized that I was double successful, because my student life in Krakow would be spent in the best and largest economics university of the country.

Now, when my Erasmus experience is already history, I can say that it was, without exaggeration, a real-life school for me. Despite the fact, that I spent 2 months of my experience mainly at home, and my studies were almost totally online, this fact did not prevent us from enjoying each day of our

Erasmus, discovering new things, making friends from all over the world (some of them became real friends of life), feeling different emotions, traveling, visiting new countries and cities (carefully planning each trip), finding ourselves in adventurous situations, getting acquainted with a new culture, at the same time sharing everyone my own Armenian culture, values, type of real Armenian. I can continue this series, but I also want to talk about my education.

Despite the fact that the classes were online, which made the work difficult for both the students and the lecturers, the specialists of our university did not only spared effort to give new knowledge to us and to share their experience but also encouraged us in every possible way during the whole study period and quarantine times. I would like to thank Krakow University of Economics for all this, and of course to ASUE for entrusting me with the opportunity to represent our country and university abroad.

After all, Erasmus was not only a wonderful opportunity for me, but also for all Erasmusians to develop their personal skills. Now I am more independent, I am more responsible for my actions, I am able to make considered decisions, I am a better team player, I know to share success with my team members, now I have more professional knowledge and I speak English more fluently :)

I guess you have already realized that Erasmus is an opportunity that should be used at least once in a lifetime. In my case, I hope it will not be the only one. As the slogan of the Erasmusians says: Once Erasmus, always Erasmus!



Sona Voskanyan

Faculty of Accounting and Auditing

Master, 1st year

Bialystok University of Technology (Poland)

Dear Reader,

I am sure that each of us at least once have thought about studying abroad. In case of me, everything isn't limited only by thinking, I tried and succeeded. When in December 2019, I was chosen as an exchange student to study in BUT, I realized that in the next 6 months of my life will be unforgettable and unusual for me.

Of course, I imagined my first meetings with new friends, new teachers, my life absolutely alone in a foreign country, cultural stress, which I would have there, some other difficulties, but I couldn't know beforehand that my Erasmus would be remembered not only by me but also by all those people who know about the programme in general. I created an Erasmus story which was very special because of Covid-19. Of course, it partially destroyed our plans and expectations we couldn't enjoy our Erasmus

fully, but as for me, the quarantine was also a good opportunity to discover my new friends, learn new skills. During this period I made so many different friends, each of them was unique with his/her habits, hobbies, nationality, traditions.

Despite all these differences, almost all of them had one common thing, they were Muslim. And for me, one of the biggest experiences was Ramadan (it is the ninth month of the Muslim calendar, this month Muslims fast during daylight hours from the beginning of morning twilight to sunset, and at the end of the month they celebrate Eid) with them. Being Christian I tried to keep all traditions, to imagine their feelings, and during that one month, I felt myself either In Tunisia or Algeria or Turkey. I can't mention that they also liked both Armenian culture and cuisine. We celebrated Zatik together. I think that learning about our cultures made us a family.

If I talk about studies, I can say that before coming I was ready for a very busy schedule. But in my opinion, the quarantine destroyed mostly this part of Erasmus. I didn't even see some of my teachers in real which I pity a lot because during online classes I understood that I would like to learn from such specialists and they could give me a big supply of knowledge.

Erasmus is a great chance for me to travel. Although we weren't allowed to travel during the last 4 months because of the situation in the world, I was able to travel before the quarantine. It was my first time in Europe. During those 4 days, I discovered 2 beautiful cities Budapest and Bratislava. After staying in Bialystok until June we again started traveling only during this month.

Warsaw, Krakow, Wroclaw, and other cities admired me and my friends. I hope our trips will be continued and I would be able to discover the fascinating beauty of Europe. In conclusion, I would like to say that despite the complicated situation we enjoyed ourselves greatly during the last months. I am sure if I have an opportunity to try again I won't even think twice before applying and I will convince all my friends to come and study in BUT.

In the end, I want to share some advice for new Erasmus students;

- Won't be afraid of doing the first step for new friendships, be brave.
- Each difficulty is a new experience, be courageous enough to overcome it.

- Try new things, discover new cultures as much as you can.
- Enjoy your Erasmus



Lilit Yesayan

Faculty of Management

Bachelor, 2nd year

University of Suceava (Romania)

I am Lilit, a student from the Faculty of Management, who assured that she couldn't spend even a single day in a foreign country without family and friends. I was an Erasmus+ student at Stefan cel Mare, University of Suceava, Romania. Due to the problems caused by Covid-19 the University had to organize the education online. But skilled and professional lecturers did their best to provide the material effectively. While in Romania, I found myself in unique atmosphere of Erasmus, where friendship, care and warmth reigned among all nations. I made many friends who made my experience unforgettable.

Limitations of movement brought us closer, and life was accompanied by many interesting and memorable moments. We had unforgettable moments together, from disappointments to the funniest memories. And after the exams, we traveled through Romania, which had already become familiar, and discovered something new.

That's the end. The moment of farewell has come ... tears ... hugs ... an infinite desire to meet again. The car is already waiting. It could be at least a little late. You look out of the car for the last time, you see tears in the eyes of even your coldest friend. Goodbye, Suceava!

I am Lilit, a student from the Faculty of Management, who now thinks that everything is possible.



Meline Arshakyan

Faculty of Finance

Bachelor, 3rd year

University of Applied Sciences Zwickau (Germany)

Hi. I'm Meline, the ASUE third-year student. I currently study at the University of Applied Sciences Zwickau, Germany.

Germany has always been my dream destination, and probably that is the reason that I'm writing to you right from here.

Zwickau, the city where I've been living for more than 5 months, is small yet extremely beautiful and sunny. It's a harmonious mixture of nature and huge German monuments. The only advantage of the quarantine is that I had plenty of time to discover every tiny piece of this amazingly beautiful city before I could move to discover other parts of Germany.

Of course, because of the pandemic situation in the world, the reality was quite different from what I've expected to do and to experience here. But I always try to stay positive and search for alternatives.

To cut the short, I want you all to know that my success story is based on my persistence in achieving my goals, my willingness to accept new changes, and my positive attitude to never give up.

And I highly recommend the rest of the students to participate in this program to see how much knowledge and experience they can gain through the short period and how joyous and colorful the six months of life can be.



Alina Hambardzumyan

Faculty of Accounting and Auditing

Bachelor, 2nd year

University of Applied Sciences Zwickau (Germany)

Hi there! My name is Alina. I am a second-year student at the University of Economics, who was lucky enough to have an opportunity to continue her studies for one semester at the University of Applied Sciences Zwickau, Germany. Studying abroad has always been an unattainable dream since early childhood, but as they usually say, dreams have the habit of becoming a reality. On the day I received the letter where it was said that I had been selected for the program, I felt like I am the luckiest person in the whole world. I was passionate and eager about studying in Germany.

To live alone in a foreign country, make friends from different parts of the world, get acquainted with their culture, discover yourself and the world every day is a really great chance. Erasmus is a wonderful experience of life, full of new opportunities, and many interesting adventures.

Of course, the COVID 19 and quarantine changed and canceled many plans but I can truly say that it made my Erasmus more memorable and interesting. The closed borders united the students of Erasmus, turned them into a large, strong multicultural and multilingual family.

I know that it is not easy to make a decision to study abroad, but I would advise everyone to take a risk at least once in their life and fully enjoy the Erasmus days. As they say Once an Erasmus always an Erasmus.



Arevik Mikayelyan

Faculty of Finance

Master, 1st year

University of Applied Sciences Zwickau (Germany)

Hi everyone, I'm Arevik, or as Germans call me "Aghevik", but together we chose an easier version of pronunciation and they name me just "Sunny". When I was told that I should tell about my Erasmus success story, I tried to find the roots of that story. Frankly, they are very deep. Ever since I was in school, I have always had a big dream in my heart: to study in Germany. When I entered university, I started looking for a way of reaching my dream, but everything was not so easy. There were no programs in Germany. I saw a notification on the last year of my bachelor course: ASUE students can continue their studies in Germany. In fact, life played a bad joke with me because I couldn't participate. But I could next year already as a master's student. And today I am writing my Erasmus story from Germany. In general, be careful with your dreams, they have a tendency to come true.

My story isn't like the classic Erasmus stories. When I came here, the colorful European city welcomed me warmly. But what happened then was impossible to imagine even in a dream. Pandemic, closed borders, empty streets, the city was silent... certainly not what I expected. Lectures were organized online, and the only thing that really bothered me was that I could not feel like an international student at the university. But that did not stop me from gaining the knowledge and experience that I think will help me to achieve professional success. Here I got to know myself, I learned to be more independent than ever. But my best achievement in the German environment was to value time. Be able to evaluate, use every moment of time effectively. This is the core of every success story. And if this story is read by students who "want to study in abroad", to create Erasmus success story, then as a senior friend, I would advise them to go with their dream but not to waste the most precious but non-renewable resource - time. I will do it later, I will do it tomorrow, this is what brings a person down. Then is now, and now is your chance.

As for me, a part of my dream is still in my heart! And I am sure that I will return to Germany, and I will feel the university spirit.

Germany, wait for me, I will be back...



Davit Asoyan

Faculty of Regulation of Economy and International Economic Relations

Master, 1st year

University of Applied Sciences Zwickau (Germany)

While studying at the university, many of us hear from our senior friends that the years spent at the university are the best years of our young lives and we should enjoy those years in the best way we can. When we are studying in our Bachelor's program, we sometimes do not understand the meaning of those words.

Only after graduating, I started to fully realize how much I had learned at the university, how much it had given to me, and how many memories I had connected with it. That's why, without the need to think for a long time, I decided that I wanted to extend my best youth years as much as possible and I started my studies in a Master's program at my university.

Just a few months later, I decided to try my chances for the Erasmus+ Exchange Program, and eventually, I got the opportunity to study for one semester in Germany at the University of Applied Sciences Zwickau.

I cannot hide that my expectations and the first impressions on Germany did not match well because I arrived there just when all the European countries were adding the restrictions one by one due to the pandemic. Although the semester ended, the university classes did not move from online platforms to auditoriums, it did not prevent me from getting new knowledge, gaining new professional skills, getting acquainted, and communicating with the professors in the university.

Despite the interesting online courses that I had, the most important Erasmus achievement for me was new contacts, acquaintances, and friends. Erasmus is special just for that, that it crosses all borders, breaks all stereotypes, allows young people to get to know each other, regardless of their nationality, religion, gender, and age.

Erasmus also gives an opportunity to get closely acquainted with European culture, allows us to live a European everyday life, which to some point helps to understand some features of the European economy.

This is why Erasmus life lasts like a moment, but that moment remains in memory for the rest of one's life.



Nvard Mkrtchyan

Faculty of Finance

Bachelor, 3rd year

Tsenov Academy of Economics (Bulgaria)

...And finally the long-awaited the moment came full of emotions, a kind of unusual worry but at the same time with soul-stirring expectations. I was going to Bulgaria to continue my studies there for one semester. There was no limit

to my excitement but at the same time, my soul was wrapped with unfamiliar feelings: new environment, different nations, different cultures ... The idea of new discoveries and new achievements refused to leave me even for a second. My heart was wearing her favorite pink shirt and didn't want to change clothes, didn't want to believe that sometimes in the struggle between reality and the imaginary victory is given to the gray reality. The future was full of various promises. It promised to be unforgettable ...

But the most unexpected thing happened. The environment that had become dear to me in a few days now lost its colors. Like an invisible hand turned the city into gray and empty space. The warm looks of

the people and the enthusiastic smiles of the students disappeared in one day. The news about the virus made us forget the sweet expectations that we had had before arriving in Bulgaria. We had to be isolated in the coming months and conduct classes online. But we were all waiting and believing that all this was temporary, and one day we would return to our normal life. And that moment wasn't late. Soon we heard the most expected news: the virus retreats! We got a chance to travel and to pursue new adventures, new discoveries. After passing the exams excellently that was the best gift we could receive.

The 5 months spent in Bulgaria gave me the most important lessons in life. They taught me to overcome unexpected difficulties, appreciate and enjoy every single moment of life, and of course never lose optimism and belief in the future. I am thankful to Erasmus+ for giving me the chance to know myself better, for having friends from all over the world, and just for the sweet memories that always will paint a smile on my face.



Knarik Brutyan

Faculty of Accounting and Audit

Bachelor, 3rd year

Tsenov Academy of Economics (Bulgaria)

Hello, I am Knarik. I am a 3rd year student at ASUE. Studying abroad was a goal for me before I became a student. In order to achieve my goal, I decided to apply to Erasmus, and I succeeded. I spent one semester of my studies at Tsenov Academy of Economics.

Shortly after I left, COVID-19 started. Of course, at first all the students, including me, were in panic, but after a short time everything was properly coordinated.

As a result of the restrictions, the lessons were held online. Both the students and the teaching staff were willing to do their best for exchanging experience and gaining new knowledge.

After a while, when the situation eased a little, I had the opportunity to get to know old and new Bulgaria with my friends, to get acquainted with the culture, the natives and their temperament.

Thanks to Erasmus I became more independent, I discovered myself.

During the short time I spent in Bulgaria, I managed to get unforgettable memories, wonderful moments for a lifetime. Erasmus is the best to discover you, to make you mature and modern both as a person and as a specialist.

I am grateful to Erasmus u ASUE International Relations Department for such an opportunity



Ani Harutyunyan

Faculty of Marketing and Business Management

Master, 1st year

University of Miskolc (Hungary)

Hello, I'm Ani. From the very first moment of entering the university, I dreamed of continuing my studies abroad within the framework of the Erasmus + program so I did my best to achieve my dream. And finally, this year, having passed all the exams, I was allowed to continue my studies at the University of Miskolc in Hungary. It was the most incredible and beautiful 4 months of my life, full of adventures and stresses, which made me more courageous, independent and self-confident. Well, as they say, success loves the brave.

Miskolc was a cozy, beautiful city, with ancient and wonderful buildings, and has nature like a paradise. The building where we lived was next to the university, surrounded by forest, and the

squirrels jumping from tree to tree seemed to be from my childhood fairy tale. There I made many friends, and I became acquainted with their habits and customs. In addition to studying, we even managed to travel to nearby cities. We visited the capital Budapest, had a good time on the banks of the Danube, and were in Vienna, but due to the ill-fated coronavirus, all our plans and trips vanished. The earth seemed to be frozen for a moment, but all of this helped us to become closer friends with other students. My friend and I were even isolated for 14 days while crossing the border from Vienna to Budapest. At first, everything seemed anxious, but we overcame everything thanks to our foreign friends who encouraged us by sending us sweets and fruits every day. The isolation ended with my birthday, which was so beautiful and impressive that I was touched for a moment. It was an exceptional and unprecedented birthday that will accompany me throughout my life. And everything was ended when I decided to make a surprise and without informing anyone, overcoming many trials, in the conditions of canceled flights and closed roads I returned to Armenia being outside on the road for 4 days and nights.

I will never forget the 4 months of my life that gave me wisdom, courage and self-confidence, as I will not forget the surprised and missed eyes of my parents when I knocked on our door at 5 a.m. . . .



Marianna Torosyan

Faculty of Marketing and Business Management

Bachelor, 3rd year

University of Miskolc (Hungary)

Hi. My name is Marianna; I study in the Marketing and Business organization department. I spent 4 unforgettable 4 months in Hungary. I studied in Miskolc University. The first month was full of new emotions. New environment, new people, new traditions. Everything seemed unbelievably perfect. There were times that I felt like I spent my whole life in Hungary. As my Erasmus experience period coincided with the epic moment of the pandemic, we spent our next 3 months in quarantine. Maybe after reading this, you will think that I have no luck, but I think I was one of the luckiest people at that time. Next 3 months we lived as a family under the same roof. I can say that the friendship that we developed in those months was stronger than any other year of Erasmus experience. Days and nights we were together. We studied together; we discovered beautiful places and monuments of Hungary, we

learned each other's culture and traditions. I can tell that in every country I have a very close person, that I know I will visit at least one time in my life.

Students' life in Hungary is different. As far as I could understand, students are given freedom of thought. As much as I like the Armenian education system, some system approaches can be adopted.

Although I didn't visit many countries, I had an unforgettable experience with wonderful people.

I am thankful to ASUE for the given opportunity.

Köszönöm (Thank you)



Selesta Baghdasaryan

Faculty of Finance

Bachelor, 3rd year

University of Osijek (Croatia)

Any dream that seems IMPOSSIBLE can become the reality of our future because the idea of impossibility is only in our heads. By overcoming these barriers, we will make the impossible possible.

Due to the Erasmus + program of my childhood dream about studying abroad that I thought was impossible to come true this year.

With big plans in my mind, I arrived in Croatia, which has a fairytale beauty. From the first day, my plans started to come to fruition. Every day I met people from all over the world, we discussed cultural differences and in the ocean of those huge differences, we found many similarities that brought us closer day by day. During the first week, I got to know the lecturers and I was looking forward to our next meeting. But...

As they say, life is full of surprises, it is not even interested in our plans. All courses due to the coronavirus epidemic were moved to the online platform, and the most anticipated educational and entertainment events were canceled.

These changes were unusual at first, but then we get used to it.

During one of the courses, each of us had to present a topic that would be interesting. Well, this was a great opportunity to talk about Armenia, the most wonderful country in the world. At the end of my speech, I was eagerly waiting for the lecturer's response, as it was very important for me to present my country in such a way that they would fall in love with it without seeing.

The lecturer asked a few questions, after which she said that the next country of her trip will be Armenia, and advised the students to go too and to see that wonderful country.

After months of participating in online courses, I gained practical and valuable knowledge. (I am confident that they will contribute to my professional growth and development in the future.) This short period has become the most memorable, impressive, and unforgettable part of my student life.

I think Erasmus is a great opportunity to get to know yourself and to see the world from a new perspective.

By the way, travel is an integral part of the Erasmus + program. Despite the situation in the world, we have also been able to travel in recent months.

So the epidemic changed the Erasmus story a little bit I imagined and led to the creation of a new Erasmus story, which was full of many adventures and surprises.



Syuzanna Manvelyan

Faculty of Accounting and Auditing

Bachelor, 3rd year

University of Osijek (Croatia)

Hey! I am Syuzanna, a 3rd-year student at ASUE, who received an opportunity to continue his studies in one of the greenest cities in Europe (Osijek, Croatia). Studying abroad has been one of my dreams since I was a child, but deciding it has not been so easy. The opportunity to learn in a new environment and at the same time thoughts about difficulties, linguistic and cultural differences arising in this new environment was constantly analyzed in my brain. Probably because of these thoughts and my unpreparedness I did not succeed in the second year, but in the result of which was created a great motivation that helped me in the third year. And a year later, after waking up every day Erasmus in my head, my goal is already a reality, but this time I am ready.

The cooperation with the University of Osijek was new and that fact was increasing the responsibility. As we were the first students representing Armenia, there was a desire to have a connection that would contribute to the expansion of cooperation between these two universities.

Erasmus is not just about education. It is about making decisions, being responsible for them, becoming independent, many opportunities, but at the same time, it is about lots of difficulties. It is here that you discover yourself, make new friends, get to know their culture, try to learn new

languages, live and see as much as you could not even imagine. It becomes a driving force for new goals.

During this year Erasmus students apart from having the "classic" difficulties, also had some other ones called corona-quarantine. Classes have been moved to the online platform, all university and ESN events have been canceled. It seems we are alone in a foreign country. But you know, it is not. It was the Erasmus family created in Osijek, with whom we overcame those difficult days and created our own unique Erasmus life.

Thank you, Erasmus for this wonderful semester, which gave me a lot of experience and wonderful memories.