



UU Study Abroad Report Form

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| faculty/college | Faculty of Arts |
| level | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD |
| name study programme | Liberal Arts and Science, Cultural Anthropology |

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| destination city & country | Bratislava, Slovakia |
| how did you travel to your destination? | Train |
| name university abroad | Comenius |
| start date | 12 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 02 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

PREPARATION

exchange application process

It is quite an intensive application process because you have to send in a lot of documents and it was not always super clear what I had to do. However, I started very late with this process so if I would have started earlier, it would have gone more easy. So the tip is to start in time. Furthermore, the UU does provide you with important documents in which they provide you with an overview and timeline of what you have to do. Save it and place it somewhere you can find it easy because they can come in handy!

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I sent a lot of questions through e-mail to the International Office and they were always ready to help me and it did not take that much time to receive a response!

academic preparation

I did not do anything in the sense of academic preparation.

language preparation

I had to do an English test, but that was all. You were not required to speak Slovak. However, I did a Slovak course in the welcome week.

finances

I received the Erasmus grant and the additional grant (which you will get after your Erasmus). I was living in a shared flat which was not too cheap, so if you want to save some money you should go to the dorms. The rent there is a lot cheaper. The country itself is luckily not that expensive. The groceries are however just a little cheaper than the Netherlands, but the way of living (going out, cafes, and other services like transportation) is a lot cheaper than in the Netherlands. But just because you are on your Erasmus you will probably spend some money on travelling to other countries and other leisure activities.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I studied at the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Social Sciences. I followed courses that are related to my specialization within Liberal Arts and Science, namely anthropology. I also followed some political and social science courses. In the beginning I received a list of courses that would be in English, however it turned out that some of these courses in the end were given in Slovak. So, I followed one course in Slovak, but the teacher



summarized it after some time in English and I followed one-on-one class with a teacher from another Slovak course. The amount of interesting courses given in English was kind of limited and dissapointed me in the beginning, but the courses that I did follow in English (European Folklore, non-democratic regimes, policies of gender equality and policies of sexuality) were really interesting and fun to follow! I have to say that the university clearly struggles with some organisational issues so be prepared for that in a sense that the first weeks might be very chaotic and that it is unclear what is expected from you. Personally, my teacher were always very helpful and understanding so I could ask them for some help. I would recommend to maybe mail some teachers if you are not sure if the course will be in Slovak or English. Furthermore, it was for me kind of unclear how to enroll courses in the system AIS2, but in the end I found my way and my contact person was really kind and offered that she could enroll me as well. So it might be a bit unclear in the beginning but you will figure it out in the end, with some help from the organization. I also followed a slovak language course in the welcome week which was 2 credits. It was quite intensive because I also participated with all the welcome week activities but it was in my opinion really worth it. I met a lot of friends there and you will immediately be engaged with each other because you see each other for a week straight.

academic quality of education activities

The quality was maybe a little lower but I would say the workload could be a litte more intense in comparsion with the Dutch universities since you will follow approximately 6 courses in the week, while in the Netherlands I only have 2 courses per block. However, there were a lot of differences between faculties, for example, the quality of the management faculty was quite low. My peers told me that it was not really difficult. My courses were pretty interesting and I do not think that the content was from bad quality but it could be sometimes easier than I was used to.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The teachers and main contact persons were always open to help you, but you need to put some energy in it to receive it. Sometimes, you have to sent multiple e-mails to get the help you need, but I thought they were always pretty helpful!

transfer of credits

30

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

ESN comenius organized an orientation programme, which was really fun! The university organized a 'survival slovak course' in which you would learn the basics of the Slovak language. This course was worth 2 ECTS and it was not mandatory. However, I would recommend to do this course, because you meet a some erasmus students which you would see on daily basis for a week long. The course itself was pretty intensive, especially because you also have the ESN activities and parties but I thought it was worth it!

accommodation

I stayed in a shared flat which I found on Facebook. It was a good deal, however most of the students will be in a student residence. I did not have to share my room which you have to do in those residences. However, it takes a lot of effort to find a flat and since I spent most of my evenings in the student residence Mlyny, I might as well could have go there. Staying in a residence is a lot cheaper and most of the Erasmus students will be there, so those are some advantages. Some cons are that it is not that clean and you do not have a lot of privacy.

leisure & culture

Because the level of the education system is a little lower than what I was used to, I had some more leisure time. ESN comenius is pretty active in Bratislava, so they organize weekly fun activities! The city is not really big,



hence there are less things to do, but I still really enjoyed my time there and it is also very easy to travel to other, bigger destinations such as Prague or Budapest. There is however a lot of nice things to do.

suggestions/tips

-

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes, it is a small but cozy city so you will be familiar in the city in no-time! ESN is very active, so there will be a lot of activities for the international students. There are great coffee places and cheap bars throughout the city, so it is pretty cheap to go out. Slovakia has a beautiful nature and it is cheap and easy to travel to cool places, like castles in Slovakia or big cities like Prague. I have met an amazing group of people, and honestly the people have a great influence on your Erasmus experience.

The university is sometimes a little chaotic, especially in the beginning, which could be some cultural shock compared to the UU but I would say it is very manageable. There are some really interesting and fun courses and the teachers are really kind.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

My advice is to contact the teachers to check if the course is given in English if you are not sure about this. If it is not there is still a possibility to follow the course and you can discuss this with your teacher before starting the semester!



| | |
|----------------------|---|
| faculty/college | Faculty of Social Sciences |
| level | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD |
| name study programme | Psychology |

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| destination city & country | Bratislava, Slovakia |
| how did you travel to your destination? | By plane |
| name university abroad | Comenius University Bratislava |
| start date | 16 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 20 / 01 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

| PREPARATION | |
|--|--|
| exchange application process | |
| The application process went okay, the UU website and Osiris offer a good overview of what needs to be done, you just have to submit a lot of documents so just start in time so you won't miss the deadline | |
| counselling & support at Utrecht University | |
| The International Office was really helpful! | |
| language preparation | |
| I didn't do any language preparation (only the Slovak language course when I arrived) | |
| finances | |
| I received the Erasmus grant, and Slovakia is not the most expensive country but keep in mind that you will do more activities and travelling than usually which will also cost money. | |

| STUDY ABROAD PERIOD | |
|---|--|
| study programme (content and organisational issues) | |
| I studied at the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics (very different from my major but I was interested in those subjects and wanted to broaden my horizon). I have to say, the organization at this faculty was quite bad because a lot of courses I wanted to do ended up to be in Slovak language and most of the time it was not clear to me how I had to fix things (like signing up for courses). In the end I figured the amount of courses I was able to do (in English) was quite limited. Although this did not matter for me in the end because I liked the courses very much, you should keep this in mind if you want to study at this university. I recommend to do a lot of emailing in advance and ask all the teachers if their course will be in English or not. So the finding of courses and signing up for them was a lot of trouble, but after that I really liked the courses. Most of them were courses of the Cognitive Science program (a program for East-European students) because those were the only ones in English. I did these courses: Fundamentals of Mathematics, Fundamentals of Programming, Introduction to Artificial Intelligence, Introduction to Computational Intelligence, Social Aspects of Informatics and Applied Robotics Seminar. Also I followed the Slovak language course, which is 5 credits and starts in the welcome week and is available for all Erasmus students. | |
| academic quality of education activities | |
| From what I heard from my Erasmus friends from other faculties is the education level at this university lower than in the Netherlands (especially at the Faculty of Management, because there are a lot of Erasmus students | |



and they are not really strict). But because I did courses that were completely different from my major and without pre-existing knowledge, some of them were quite difficult for me. Also because some of them required knowledge on the subject and I had never for example programmed before. But the teachers were really understanding and for example adjusted their exams for me (and other Erasmus students). Also the classes were small which caused the lectures and seminars to be really interactive and personal.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I had a contact person at the faculty who was really friendly but in the end you have to fix most things yourself. Because everything is not organized that strictly, on the good side this means that there is a lot of flexibility. For example, we could choose the exam dates ourselves, so we chose the date that fitted the best for the most people (this is very different from the NL because the exam date is decided months in advance and not changeable). Also the lectures of one course were in Slovak so I could do the course individually with consultations with the lecturer.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome week was a good introduction to the university and the city. Also ESN organized activities every day of this week which was a great way to meet other students. There was a faculty visit as well which gave me the opportunity to meet my contact person and fix some trouble with respect to courses/signing up for them.

accommodation

I stayed at the Student Residence in a double room. This is not a university dorm but more expensive and because of that also cleaner and better. Although I was not used to sharing a room, this turned out to be okay, and the location is on walkable distance to the city center. However, most Erasmus students stayed at one of the two dormitories and therefore the atmosphere there is really great. The dorm rooms are kind of shitty and you have to share bathroom with ten people and the 'kitchen' with more than 100 people) but there are a lot of facilities, like canteens with really really cheap food, a bar, a club, laundry rooms, music room, coffee/study place... So if you love to have people around and don't mind a little poorness/shabbiness, I would recommend the dorms. The two dorms are Mlyny and Družba, and Mlyny is bigger and has more facilities. But if you care more about having a not-noisy and clean room, then I would recommend the Student Residence or searching your own flat (via Facebook for example).

leisure & culture

ESN organized many great activities like pubquizzes, parties, weekend trips... I met a lot of great people during these activities from all over Europe and the ESN staff is nice as well. Bratislava is a small but cozy city. They say if you're a tourist there you can see everything in one or two days, which is true but for a student there is enough to do for one semester. The city is full of nice and cheap bars and cute coffee places. And one of the best things of Bratislava is the location in relation to other cities; it was easy travelling to Budapest, Zagreb, Graz, Ljubljana and Vienna. Also you get a free train card for travelling through whole Slovakia.

suggestions/tips

I experienced the older Slovak people to be a little closed/aloof/seem a little bitchy, and also their level of English is very bad, that's why I recommend to learn a little of their language to facilitate communication, it helps them to open up to you and then they can be really nice people. The younger people and students have much better English levels.

Contact me for good museums/bars/restaurants/sightseeings/etc

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain



If you don't mind organizational issues and can stand a little hassle, I would recommend this university. The teachers are great, the city is cozy and affordable, a lot of beautiful cities are close. Also ESN is great for social life (and ESN is not in every university city).



ERASMUS+ STUDIES - UU Report

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| faculty/college | humanities |
| level | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD |
| name study programme | communciation |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| destination city & country | Bratislava, Slovakia |
| name university abroad | Comenius university |
| start date | 11 / 02 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 28 / 06 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was relatively simple. you just have to follow the instructions. The receiving University made a mistake though but after one email and a very quick response it was solved

counselling & support at Utrecht University

If there is something you can always email them but calling is faster.

academic preparation

I did not do anything special.

language preparation

/

finances

try to have enough to be able to fly home when something unexpected happens and even if you go traveling don't touch that money. I was lucky I had emergency money.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

it was kind of chaotic.

academic quality of education activities

the quality is lower then I was used to in Utrecht

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

good, the contactperson was always reachable by email and you could always go to the office

transfer of credits



| STUDENT LIFE |
|---|
| welcome & orientation programme |
| it was one morning for the faculty, where you got some important information, but ESN had some get to know Bratislava activities the whole week |
| accommodation |
| I was at Mlyny where most of the students stay. You will get one or two roommates. The room was clean and furnished but it could get a little bit noisy in the night. |
| leisure & culture |
| ESN organises activities and some trips that might be fun. Also the train in Slovakia is free for students to explore to explore other cities. It is also easy to get to budapest and vienna because that is close. Also in Bratislava you have the devincastle and that was my favourite place to go to. |
| suggestions/tips |
| |

| CONCLUSIONS |
|--|
| would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain |
| Yes, because you could change some courses when you find out that you don't like it. You also have teachers who are willing to change examdates if it fits you better (for example when you already have an exam that day). Bratislava is also cool to live in because it is not too touristic and crowded, like vienna and Budapest. But you have take into account that it can get chaotic a little bit and some courses might not be available anymore if you come there. |
| do you have any additional advice or comments? |
| |



ERASMUS+ STUDIES UU Report

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| family name | xxx |
| first name | xxx |
| student number | xxx |
| e-mail address | |
| faculty/college | Geesteswetenschappen |
| level | <input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD |
| name study programme | Liberal Arts and Sciences |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| destination city & country | Bratislava, Slovakia |
| name university abroad | Comenius University |
| start date | 01 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 01 / 02 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

| PREPARATION |
|---|
| exchange application process |
| The application process was pretty easy I think if you just follow the steps in Osiris. |
| counselling & support at Utrecht University |
| Utrecht University helped me a lot because they placed me and Robert at the same University like we requested. |
| academic preparation |
| Utrecht asked to do a lot beforehand but actually it was better to do it when I arrived. The information online was not always correct or up to date and when I was there I had to change all my courses. |
| language preparation |
| The courses were taught in English but the level was not very high so this was no problem. |
| finances |
| Bratislava was very cheap to live (groceries/rent) so this was no problem. |



STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Everything was a bit differently organised compared to what I was used to at Utrecht University (or any Dutch University) and it was a lot more chaotic. This is alright if you don't mind having to switch courses last minute or suddenly having an exam tomorrow instead of next week. Because of this chaos there is a lot of space to change things last minute for yourself as well. The teachers or the systems are not superstrict in rules etc so it feels more easy going which I thought was a plus

There was an issue in the beginning of the semester as all the courses that I picked and put in my learning agreement turned out to not be taught in English, and the English taught programme suddenly was very very limited.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality of education was very different throughout the university and throughout the courses and I think this was mostly due to the teachers.. Some teachers for example were very qualified and I learned a lot in those courses. But other teachers simply ignored the book or material and did not speak English very well which made it hard for me to "learn" things from them and I had to do a lot by myself.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Teachers and contactpersons at Comenius were very helpful, it really surprised me!! More than what I have had in Utrecht so far. My contactperson always helped me really fast and a lot of teachers also took time apart to teach their subject in a small group for the International students. These courses were really focused on personal attention and you could ask the teachers for help about anything.

transfer of credits

The credits were transferred to Dutch grades and I think this was done in a fair way although not all the faculties do this in the same way. For example natural sciences A became a 9.0 and social sciences A became a 8.5 at Utrecht University which I thought was strange. But overall the transfer of credits seems fair to me. What did surprise me is that all the courses were listed as level 1 courses in Osiris while I followed courses of level 1, 2 and 3 at Comenius University. The courses of level 3 were significantly more difficult and I think it is not very fair that in Utrecht they are seen as level 1.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation programme was very well organised! ESN is a really fun group and they organise a lot of activities which made it easy to get to know everyone.

accommodation

The University has dorms in very bad condition, but very cheap. You sleep in a tiny room with 2 or 3 people and everything is really small and shitty. But a lot of parties are happening there and it has a really nice vibe. There are other dorm-like places with more privacy to live in Bratislava as well, like Incheba or the Student House where I lived. There are plenty of students in these places as well but the rooms are really nice and clean.

leisure & culture

There was not a lot to do in Bratislava, it's a tiny city. However there is a lot to do close by: trips to the mountains, Vienna, Prague, Budapest. There is definitely a lot of Slovak culture to explore in Bratislava and the whole of Slovakia (which you can tour with a free train pass for students)

suggestions/tips

The high Tatras in Slovakia were a really nice surprise! It is beautiful in Winter (with loads of snow) and in Summer as well and only a few hours away by train!



CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I would definitely recommend this University if you want courses where you get a lot of personal attention and if you don't mind the unorganised chaos. Bratislava is a cheap place full of international students but if you prefer a big city with a lot to do than this is not the place for you.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Do the Slovak language course and use it! I got to learn a lot of Slovak in just six months and I thought it was really awesome. It is nothing like any other familiar language and now I can understand a lot of other slavic languages like russian/polish/czech etc and that is really cool I think!!



ERASMUS+ STUDIES UU Report

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|----------------------|---|
| family name | xxxx |
| first name | xxx |
| student number | xxx |
| e-mail address | |
| faculty/college | Sociale wetenschappen |
| level | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD |
| name study programme | ASW |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| destination city & country | Bratislava, Slowakije , |
| name university abroad | Comenius university |
| start date | 01 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 01 / 02 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

| PREPARATION |
|---|
| exchange application process |
| You can read this on the website of the UU. |
| counselling & support at Utrecht University |
| I went to a general meeting of going abroad. Furthermore, I had a meeting with the coordinator (Marleen van der Ven). |
| academic preparation |
| It took some time to choose courses online. Finally, I had to send emails to the teachers directly to ask whether or not the course would be given that semester. Some plans for following courses changed. |
| language preparation |
| I took a slovak language course in the first week in Slovakia. |
| finances |
| I received 600,- in total from Erasmus+ and some money for not using OV (approximately 90,- a month). |



| STUDY ABROAD PERIOD |
|---|
| study programme (content and organisational issues) |
| <p>I chose 9 courses (all not many ECTS). These were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Slovak language 2. Moral psychology 3. Individual psychology 4. Interventions in education 5. Alternative schools 6. Painting and sculpture of the 19th and 20th centuries 7. Social motivation and behaviour 8. Visual grammar 9. Introduction to logic |
| academic quality of education activities |
| <p>The quality of education is good. For most courses, I used some articles of recent research or some very interesting books. Furthermore, I had more individual courses (only with the teacher or just with a group of five students and the teacher).</p> |
| counselling & support at receiving university abroad |
| Good |
| transfer of credits |
| Good. I did 32 ECTS |

| STUDENT LIFE |
|---|
| welcome & orientation programme |
| Very nice! I recommend to do this. |
| accommodation |
| <p>Dormitories Mlynske dolina, see the website of the university. It is very cheap and you can sign up online. Note: there are only rooms you share with 1 or 2 others. (I liked this actually)</p> |
| leisure & culture |
| Nice |
| suggestions/tips |
| <p>Explore the city and the country (you can buy free tickets for travelling by train & bus/metro is also very cheap). Contact me if you want to have more info!</p> |

| CONCLUSIONS |
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| would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain |
| Yes. It was well organised, a different way of having courses and a very beautiful city to be. |
| do you have any additional advice or comments? |
| No |



ERASMUS+ STUDIES UU Report

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| family name | xxx |
| first name | xxx |
| student number | xxx |
| e-mail address | |
| faculty/college | Geosciences |
| level | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD |
| name study programme | Developmental Geography |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| destination city & country | Bratislava, Slovakia |
| name university abroad | Comenius University |
| start date | 18 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 17 / 02 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

| PREPARATION |
|---|
| exchange application process |
| Applying for the exchange was very easy and straight forward! All the information was presented on one web page of the UU with a clear overview of what needs to happen when. Didn't encounter any problems or difficulties! |
| counselling & support at Utrecht University |
| Experienced great support from UU! My situation was slightly different from normal applications, because together with a study mate we tried to enter the same university/city at the same time. That was a challenge, but with the help of the international office we made a top 3 of favorite locations and they helped by thinking along with us. |
| academic preparation |
| I mostly didn't prepare for the courses at Comenius University. I didn't receive any information as to what to prepare for, probably because the teachers at the university didn't know anything about which courses the Erasmus students were going to attend to. For a chemistry class I looked up some basic information to make up for the fact that I didn't have chemistry in high school, but that's all the preparation I had and needed! |
| language preparation |



I followed the Slovak Language Course and trusted that I would learn everything I wanted to learn there. Therefore, I didn't prepare anything back home in terms of language.

finances

Slovakia was cheap, very cheap. Still, I made sure that I knew the estimates of what the day to day life would cost me there, and prepare for it. I did work a bit extra the summer before going, which was not necessary in order to survive financially. It was nice though to have some surplus for fun activities like traveling in the region or eating out and I recommend to do the same.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I followed the first half year of the English taught 'Environmental Sciences', which was a mixture of different beta courses focused on the exact sciences to understand the environment. Think chemistry, geology, geography etc. This study programme is popular in its Slovak version, but the English version was not very well organised. I think mostly because there was only me, and two other Slovak students. There was no clear information concerning how to apply for courses (I thought I already did that with my Learning Agreement, but they never used that to register me for courses). I think they had an online area like Osiris, but not for Erasmus students. If I wanted to register for a course, I had to track down the responsible teacher in person in a strange building and ask if I could attend their course. If they agreed, I had to go to the office and confirm, and there they would register me. I was lucky that a teacher wanted to help me, so she walked with me for an hour trying to find all the teachers, but if she wouldn't have helped me I don't think I could have even registered for all the courses. The content of the courses was interesting, but very basic. It felt like a recap from high school. We would never really go in depth.

academic quality of education activities

I liked the topics they addressed and I liked the hands-on approach: not so theoretical, but presented as such that you understand the value of the information in the real world. However, the quality was nowhere near University level in my opinion. It felt like applied sciences, which isn't a bad thing on its own, but which is good to know before you go or even make your decision. Some teachers didn't show any compassion to their discipline, or to teaching, which was extra demotivating apart from the language barrier (English levels were very basic and not really academic). However, some teachers were very passionate about their job and loved to teach us all about it, which was nice. Because we were such a small group, the teachers that loved to teach actively engaged with us and made it very personal. One teacher however didn't even bother to contact us in a month and send us new slides, so we basically never had any class from him (I think he did teach the regular class, but he found the English class too small to even bother and try to teach us). The test was normal, but we just had to learn for it in the last week and that was sufficient.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The moment you ask for help in Slovakia they will try to help you, but if you don't ask for it they will never try to think for you. If you want the rosters, contact info from teachers, a head start, someone to think along with you or anything else, you have to actively ask around until you find the right person. They will never give you a good overview of what needs to be arranged when and with who to actually start attending courses. Even after their help it was still confusing and my Slovak class mates, both first year students, didn't know much more either. So the bottomline is: when asked for, the counseling is okay and sometimes great, but the organisational structure behind the counseling could use a major improvement and needs to be more established as well. (For example, hand out on paper a small guide that explains all that needs to happen with a link for further information online, IN ENGLISH).

transfer of credits



Didn't experience any problems. Courses were already in ECTS and were taken over by the UU without any problems.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Great welcome week, the students from ESN Bratislava really did go out of their way. The welcome week was organised very well, with all the information you needed in an online Facebook group with separate activities you could attend and sign up for. Also, when you had a question, you could just message them and they would answer fairly quick. They were great people! At activities, you could see they were enjoying themselves and enjoyed to connect with the Erasmus students (and occasional other exchange student). After the welcome week, you know where to go for everything and who to ask if you want to know more. Also, you will have plenty of opportunity to meet all your fellow exchange students, so make sure you join the welcome week.

accommodation

Accommodations offered by the university (Mliny, Druzba) are really small and crappy, but even more cheap to make up for it. For between 50 and 70 euro you have a room for a month, shared with one or two other exchange students! If you enjoy your own space and privacy and don't mind missing out on the hallway parties and social activities that spontaneously happen, there's plenty of possibility to find private accommodations. Just google, or look at Flatio (sort of AirBnB for longer periods).

leisure & culture

Bratislava is a nice and historic city that you can enjoy for a long time, with a nice main street where you can shop, eat and party (Obchodna), and with many modern shopping malls (really, I don't know any city with more shopping malls, it's ridiculous!). But if you were a tourist, I would say you can see everything of Bratislava in two days tops. Luckily, Bratislava is located at a very great spot to discover nearby cities and countries. Vienna, Budapest, Prague and Brno are all doable in a weekend! Also, I (and probably every Slovak as well) definitely recommend visiting the High Tatras (Zdiar, or anywhere else) because they are really beautiful mountains.

suggestions/tips

See leisure & culture! And go to the Slovak pub for a traditional meal and some Kofola!

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes, I would recommend visiting Bratislava for your Erasmus experience, but the recommendation is conditional. If you join Erasmus just for the contents of the courses abroad, don't go here, you will be disappointed in the academic quality and lack of professional teachers. If you want to go to a country where everyone speaks perfect English, go to England or Ireland or any other country where English is commonly spoken. If you don't mind the challenge of speaking a bit with your hands and feet and a little with the local language, I recommend it. Locals are usually quite surprised when you speak a bit of Slovak and will open up to you quickly.

In conclusion, if you want to wander off the beaten trail and experience an authentic country where tourism and internationals are not embedded in the day to day life, and if you don't mind adapting a bit to the sometimes seemingly rude way people interact with you (but that's just their way, they're not mad at you, that's just normal!), then I definitely recommend giving Bratislava and Slovakia in general a try.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Comenius University and Slovakia both seem a bit unorganised and chaotic, which is true. Don't let that scare you off though, because although the lack of structure and protocol can be confusing and annoying, it also



means they will be more open to adapting to you. Have two exams at the same time? No problem, you can do your exam another time. Want to go home before Christmas and don't come back after? No problem, you can finish and do all the exams before Christmas. Already know the contents of a course because you had something similar back home? No problem, they will just try and think of something different and more challenging for you, as long as you show that you know everything of the standard curriculum. That's the positive side to the chaotic and unstructured side of Slovakia. If you find that charming and not utterly annoying, you know you will find likeminded people during your exchange. Enjoy!