

**ERASMUS+ student report on the academic mobility****About the student**Ricarda von Hebel 4<sup>th</sup> semester of Master Business Economics**Basic information on the mobility period**

Semester: summer (04/03/2019 – 22/06/2019)

**STUDIES**

Which courses did you attend?	<i>Decision-making in business environment, Knowledge Management, Training and Development</i> Attended <i>Spanish language</i> Helped with <i>German and English classes</i> as a co-teacher
Describe the general teaching system. How much and in what way does it differ from the system you nurture at your faculty?	In comparison to my former lectures I only had face-to-face meetings with the professors in Valjevo. We discussed together my assignments I had to write regarding the content, topic, length, where I can get information and data from etc. I also wrote one assignment in cooperation with a company and analysed their HR department.
What was the language of instruction? Was the foreign language an obstacle to acquiring knowledge and taking the exam? How much has this mobility influenced the improvement of your language skills?	All assignments I wrote were in English which makes it a lot easier when searching online for information and acquiring knowledge. Only during my work in the Serbian organisation it would have been easier if I would have been able to speak or even understand Serbian. But, most employees were able to speak English and tried to describe and helped me as much as possible. Because of the everyday use of the English language I got more used to it and also writing in English improved my academic language skills.
<b>COURSES</b>	
How often did you have classes?	Face-to-face meetings with the professors once a month roughly
How much of the knowledge were you familiar with before the mobility? How much of the acquired knowledge is completely new to you?	Regarding the courses <i>Decision-making in business environment</i> and <i>Training and development</i> I already had some knowledge about those fields. But it was very helpful and useful to go in an organisation to see the practical work. I did not know much about <i>Knowledge Management</i> when I started reading about it.
What are the specific acquired skills and teaching characteristics that you would share with your professors and fellow students? Why?	I definitely learned a lot about academic writing and therefore improved my writing and grammatical skills. Also, it helped me during the research for information and selecting the right data for my further work.
How much is the acquired knowledge useful for continuation of your studies and in practice? Explain.	As I am about to start my master thesis the acquired knowledge about writing skills and academic research helped me a lot.
<b>EXAMS</b>	
Have you passed the exams at all the courses you attended? Explain.	I passed all exams very well.
How difficult was it for you to pass the exams? Why?	For me it was not very hard to pass the exams as I had already written several academic assignments, but these were the first ones in English which challenged me a bit.
Are you satisfied with the grades and acquired knowledge? Why?	I am very satisfied with my grades and especially satisfied with the practical knowledge I was able to gain during the cooperation with the company.

**LIFE**

<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>	
What kind of accommodation did you stay in? Describe in detail.	I lived in a shared flat with 6 other girls, aged 17 to 20 years approximately. Several of those flats were in that house of a language school. I had my own room, but two bathrooms and a small kitchen to share.



Are you generally satisfied with the accommodation? Specify positive and negative aspects.	The flat was okay and the owners were very helpful and friendly. However, sharing with younger quite immature girls who do not share my cleaning habits was not what I am used to.
How much did it cost on a monthly basis?	My private room in a shared flat cost me 120€.
<b>FINANCIAL ASPECT</b>	
How much money did you receive as the <i>Erasmus+</i> grant?	I received a financial support from Erasmus+ of 650€ per month.
Was the amount of money enough for the life expenses?	That amount of money was definitely enough for living in Valjevo and travelling to Belgrade from time to time and spending some time there.
Did you have to add your personal money?	No, I did not have to add my own money for my living expenses.
<b>SOCIAL LIFE</b>	
Describe how you spent your free time.	During my free time I used to do a lot of sport in a gym but also going for runs in the area. Furthermore, I met with friends and went out for coffee or drinks.
Did you meet a lot of new people? Describe the experience.	I met several people, especially in the beginning of my Erasmus. During my stay abroad I had deeper contact to three or four students.
Did you travel to other places? Describe.	I travelled to several cities within Serbia, but also drove through the country for a few days to see more of different areas. I also went to Montenegro and Bulgaria for a short visit.
<b>CULTURAL ASPECT</b>	
Describe your experience and your attitudes to new surroundings, language, lifestyle, traditions and people's mentality.	As it was not the first time for me living abroad and speaking English every day, I got used to it quite quickly. However, it was new for me to live in a smaller city with not that many things to do. The Serbian mentality and culture of people is really warm and welcoming but language gaps made it difficult to get in contact sometimes.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ACADEMIC EXCHANGE (MOBILITY)

<b>PERSONAL IMPORTANCE</b>	
Would you take part in the mobility of this kind again? Why?	I definitely can recommend living abroad or studying in a different country for a certain time. It is also a great chance visiting an unknown country or quieter area to get to know local students and therefore the culture better.
Describe the importance of the experience for your personal development. How has it changed you?	Living in a different country and getting to know people and therefore the local culture is always an adventure which enriches the personal development and widens the angle of view. For me it expands my cultural perspective and showed me how important it is to be always open-minded to every person again and always look for conversations and contacts with people locally.
<b>POTENTIAL IMPORTANCE FOR OTHER STUDENTS</b>	
Would you recommend this experience to your fellow students? Why?	Yes, I would recommend Erasmus exchange or study abroad to everybody. As mentioned before, it widens the personal angle of view, expands the cultural experience.
What do those who apply for the experience need to be prepared for? What are potential downsides?	When studying in a smaller city and also in a quite unknown or different culture it makes it easier being open-minded for new things and searching for contact with other people to getting to know the local culture.

### YOUR ERASMUS+ EXPERIENCE IN ONE SENTENCE

What is your message for future <i>Erasmus+</i> exchange students?	Just do it and be open for everything! Push yourself in unknown situation and meet amazing people.
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