

ERASMUS+ student report on the academic mobility

About the student

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| Carlotta Schmitz | Business Administration (master – 5 th semester) |
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Basic information on the mobility period

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| Semester: | Winter (30 th September 2022-24 th March 2023) |
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STUDIES

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| Which courses did you attend? | <i>Contemporary Corporate Finance</i> <i>Web Technologies</i> <i>Personal Finance</i> <i>Training and development</i> |
| Describe the general teaching system. How much and in what way does it differ from the system you nurture at your faculty? How important is such a different experience to you in terms of education? | We had consultations with the professors to talk about the subject of the course and to find topics we would work on. It differs a lot from the courses in Germany as there were no classic courses where the professor teaches in front of the students – it was a more project-based approach where we had to work on something ourselves. This was a good experience as this prepares you for work life where you often have to find solutions yourself and work on topics to present them to your team etc. |
| 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? | The language of instruction was English. The foreign language was no obstacle. The mobility influenced my English skills especially in being more confident to speak and to find words easier. |

COURSES

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| How often did you have classes? | Twice a week one course and the others were working by ourselves / in a team. |
| How much of the knowledge were you familiar with before the mobility? How much of the acquired knowledge is completely new to you? | Besides the course <i>Web Technologies</i> , which was totally new, I had some basic knowledge about the topics we were working on. |
| What are the specific acquired skills and teaching characteristics that you would share with your professors and fellow students? Why? | The ones involving the use of HTML and CSS from the course <i>Web Technologies</i> – it was so interesting to see and learn what is behind a website. |
| How much is the acquired knowledge useful for continuation of your studies and in practice? Explain. | The acquired knowledge is very useful as I gained some further insight into financing, which is always useful for your own personal finances and the broader understanding of the topic. Also, the course <i>Training and Development</i> was very useful (change management) as it is very applicable. |

EXAMS

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| Have you passed the exams at all the courses you attended? Explain. | Yes, I passed all the exams. |
| How difficult was it for you to pass the exams? Why? | It wasn't too difficult to pass them as they all were project-based courses, but it took a lot of time to work on the topics and to gain deep understanding and to put it in a way it was presentable. |
| Are you satisfied with the grades and acquired knowledge? Why? | Yes, I am. The acquired knowledge offers a good starting point to dive deeper into the attended topics. |

LIFE

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| ACCOMMODATION | I was accommodated in a Serbian language school, which can be described as a dormitory/shared living with other students/pupils. |
| What kind of accommodation did you stay in? Describe in detail. | |
| Are you generally satisfied with the accommodation? Specify positive and negative aspects. | Yes, I was satisfied, it fulfilled my needs. It was close to the centre, I had a room for myself and some nice people were living there. Sometimes it was a bit dirty but nothing you can't handle for some months. |
| Would you stay in the same type of accommodation? Why? | Yes, I would. Everything was fine, the landlord was nice. No problems. |
| How much did it cost monthly? | 250 € / month |
| FINANCIAL ASPECT | |
| How much money did you receive as the Erasmus+ grant? | 490 € |
| Was the amount of money enough for the life expenses? | yes |
| Did you have to add your personal money? | Yes (for trips) |
| SOCIAL LIFE | |
| How did you spend your free time? | I travelled around quite a lot. I went out with friends and did day trips to nature and cities. |
| Did you meet a lot of new people? | Yes, I met a lot of people. Everybody was very open and hospitable. |
| Did you travel to other places? Describe. | Yes! To the Eastern Serbia, Bosnia, Croatia, Montenegro, Hungary, Kosovo, Albania. |
| CULTURAL ASPECT | |
| Describe your experience and your attitudes to new surroundings, language, lifestyle, traditions and people's mentality. | I had a very good experience. Sometimes it was a little bit overwhelming as it can be very different from Germany, but if you stay openminded and engage and try everything out, you'll have a great experience trying the same things differently. The language barrier was sometimes quite difficult, but most of the time I got along very well. |

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ACADEMIC EXCHANGE (MOBILITY)

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| PERSONAL IMPORTANCE | |
| Would you take part in the mobility of this kind again? Why? | Yes, I would! It really was challenging, but leaving my comfort zone was a great thing to shift perspectives. |
| Could this experience open a new door for you in the future? | I think experiences like this are always a good thing as you are able to understand someone else's point of view – so I think leaving your comfort zone is always a door opener as it brings you in contact with other people and situations. |
| Describe the importance of the experience for your personal development. How has it changed you? | This was very important to me. I learned to get along with myself and to really be myself and to be confident about being alone. Also, it taught me that if you don't engage, nothing will come to you as you are responsible for yourself. It also taught me that the people around you are the most important thing to have a good time. |
| POTENTIAL IMPORTANCE FOR OTHER STUDENTS | |
| Would you recommend this experience to your fellow students? | Yes, definitely. It is different than the usual Erasmus experience, which is the reason why it was so special. |
| What do those who apply for the experience need to be prepared for? What are potential downsides? | Don't prepare, just be open for everything 😊 |
| YOUR ERASMUS+EXPERIENCE IN ONE SENTENCE | |
| Go for it! | |