

Dear confused student..."Erasmus or Not Erasmus...That is the question".

Since I started to consider the idea of filling my Erasmus' form, thousands of questions and doubts came to my mind and made my decision so hard. What if I'll lose time? And if I'll not be really able to manage every course and exam that I'm supposed to do next year? And mostly...if I'll not be able to leave everything, take a 23kg-always-too-small-suitcase and fly away for the next nine months?

Well, in that case, I'm pretty sure that I would have actually missed the greatest experience of my life.

I've been thinking (or maybe dreaming) to write my personal "Erasmus: how to survive"-guide for the last months so I should thank the Charles' University to give me an official reason to do it. Now, coming back to the main point, my "probably curious and not only just confused" student, let me give to you some basic advices to realize how surprising all of this can be.

POINT N°1: YOU BELIEVE, YOU CAN.

The University world is so hard for everyone and everywhere that imagining to move, find courses, ask to be inserted in them, find the way to follow maybe different courses, in different buildings but at the same time can really sound impossible. I still remember when at the first meeting they gave me the schedule of just "some" of the courses that I had supposed to follow according my learning agreement. I spent the first weeks sending mails and almost crying, but if you will just sit and breath, everything will be possible. I



I was probably very lucky, but I found a real group ready to help me to win my match. Marika Bendová, the Administrative coordinator of ERASMUS+ in the Third Faculty, surprised me since the first day that we met in her office. She helped me organizing every necessary thing and probably even more and she was always able to find for me the best solution. Jana Dáňová was also always very kind with all of us and, my best memory together is the tea that we had during the Easter Party, laughing & making pictures together... because they're not your teachers, they're your TEAM!

After this I also discovered how the professors can be glad in helping the Erasmus (and probably also the not-Erasmus) students as much as possible; I even obtained the opportunity to attend to "special personal weeks" of practice in different departments, receiving medical but also life-instructions from all of them. So, believe me when I'm telling you how easy can be this trip if you just decide to trust in your collaborators!

POINT N°2: CHATTING HAS NEVER BEEN SO HARD!

If you are scared to leave your home-language and start to think, speak, do shopping or study in English (or other languages)...you should just know that at the end of your Erasmus you'll even sing in English under the shower! Jokes apart, the university gave us the opportunity to do an English-assessment at the beginning of the year and I got in it B1 level; they then asked us to do it at the last week, at almost the end of the year and I got C1. How? Living every day, going at the supermarket, laughing with my friends, watching movies all together, following the lessons and attending to the practices...every single moment of the last few months I was learning day by day on how to improve my English and most of all...I will probably never lose this because I wasn't just collecting terms, I was collecting memories.



POINT N°3: WE ARE A FAMILY!

Step by step we are moving to the funniest part of your adventure: you will meet people!

The day before the departure all of your home-friends will organize something to say you goodbye, good luck and many nice things; in that moment you'll consider yourself like an elected-lucky-guy that is going to conquer the world but you are not realizing that when your flight will land you will just be...ALONE! No friends waiting for you, no mum and dad at home, no grandmother's unbelievable lunch on Sunday...just you and your 23kg-now-so-heavy-suitcase. You can just think: "Disgusting!", but...you still don't know that so many students are leaving the same feeling at the same time and in the same city. You will just occasionally meet them day by day (maybe dancing in a club or even drinking a super cheap Czech beer in some pubs) and...they'll be your world for the next months! You will discover how easy making strong relations could be; how much you'll cry when people, never met before, will leave to come back home;

you will find yourself in thinking to them probably just because of a picture on "Facebook" ...and suddenly, one day, you will feel "home". You will think at your flatmates calling them "family", you'll be at school thinking to come back home which



actually is now a possibly-cheap shared flat in the middle of nowhere and not your real house, you will be part of something that you will never be able to forget...THAT'S THE ERASMUS.

POINT N°4: RELAX, TAKE IT EASY!

And now, dear student, if you are still here with me...we are at the final stop: what will happen afterwards? How will we be coming back to the real world?

Unfortunately (or luckily) I still don't know...probably it will be very hard, day by day everything will come back to its place and you'll re-start your normal (and real) life...but nothing will be the same anymore! Your eyes will observe everything in a different way, you will have learnt to appreciate the simple things that the people can offer you; you will have learnt how important can be your family next to you; you will have learnt how surprising the life could be!



So now you should just turn on your laptop and decide to fill the form that will probably change...what? Yourself? No...maybe not...but at least it will change your next year ;) and then...you will be part of the plenty of Erasmus people that will continue to tell their story to the next generations...never forgetting...

BECAUSE 'ERASMUS'...IS A WAY OF BEING (and not just a question!).



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