

Studying Abroad Experience Report

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My Study Abroad/ Exchange Semester at University of Economics in Bratislava in Slovakia

Preparation stage

The preparation stage for studying abroad had been great from the beginning as I decided predominately to study my exchange semester at University of Economics in Bratislava in Slovakia considering the academic as well as rich cultural aspects. However, due to covid-19 restrictions in Slovakia, the exchange semester was conducted exclusively online through online-interactive teaching methods. Since, the semester was going to be conducted online, I really did not have to prepare for anything much about the pre-departure procedures and formalities like Visa, Insurance and Travel arrangements. The application process was quite smooth and the team at Viadrina International Affairs had helped and supported us through smooth guidelines from the beginning such as: how to prepare for the application process, what to expect from the host institutions and what are the challenges and issues needed to be taken care of. Besides, there were great events arranged in the beginning by host institutions, such as: online welcome and orientation party where we played games and participated in different quizzes and got to know students from different countries and different backgrounds. Moreover, there were buddy and tutoring programs available for students who are opted to go to Bratislava, however, as I was studying from my home, I did not participate the buddy program. But, overall, great experiences in the beginning and the classes also started with great beginnings.

Accommodation

Since, I was studying exclusively online from home, I did not need to find or look for any accommodation in the host institution. Although, from my fellow colleagues' form Bratislava, I came to know that the university offers wide range of hall of residences and private apartments nearby for students who want to avail them during their stay at Bratislava.



Studying at the university abroad

As I did not attend the physical classes at University of Economics in Bratislava, I can not comment on the campus life of Bratislava. However, the online classes were fully interactive and quite engaging. Active participation was mandatory, and every student had to attend 90% of the classes to qualify for the further assessment or examinations. Wide variety of courses were available for Erasmus students where students can choose courses from different faculties according to their academic preferences and future career prospects. I undertook courses mainly from Faculty of Business Management, considering my preferences and my academic pathway. I took courses like Management; Leadership; Human Resource Management; Business Informatics; Small and Medium sized Enterprise Management. The course catalogue links can be found in the following Url Link: <https://euba.sk/en/international-relations/incoming-students/catalogue-of-courses>. There were no language courses offered from the hosting university side, however, I have voluntarily participated in OLS (Online Language System) where I have scored C1 level in English. The general assessment in the academic courses were consist of weekly assignments, presentations, seminar paper preparations and exam assessments as well. General examinations were held mostly in two terms: mid-term and final term. My overall experience at University of Economics in Bratislava is very satisfying and I thoroughly enjoyed and learned quite a lot from the exchange programs. The tutors were very knowledgeable, caring, and very supportive to the students, especially to the students from Erasmus. Moreover, tutors were easily approachable and flexible in email correspondence. So, it was a great experience for me overall.

Day to day life and free time

As stated earlier, I have participated in the exchange program fully online, Therefore, I did not have the chance to experience the cost and accessibility of living at Bratislava.

Conclusion

I personally enjoyed the teaching methods at Bratislava. It was very interactive, participatory, and practice-oriented learning which would help any students in the future career aspects. Some of the teachers have even provided us their email link so that we could stay connected if any support needed in terms of academic and career aspects in the future. So, it was a great experience for me, and I highly recommend University of Economics in Bratislava in Slovakia for students. There was no worst experience for me to be fair; only, some tutors found to be facing difficulties while delivering lectures in English, which is understandable as they are teaching in Slovak languages most of the time.