

# **My Erasmus Experience in University of Wroclaw (Uniwersytet Wrocławski)**

## **English philology BSP student`s Anete Jasmane story**

I am an English Philology student at the University of Latvia, and I have spent a semester in Poland as an Erasmus student at the University of Wroclaw.

The University of Wroclaw offered two week introductory course of Polish language which was an important aid. Not only it helped with the language barrier while communicating with Poles, but also made it easier to become friends with other Erasmus students who were invaluable companions. There were students from Germany, France, Czech, Slovenia, Slovakia, Russia, Spain, Turkey – abundance of people to remember and to whom present yourself and your home country. Unsurprisingly, not many knew about Latvia and often apologized for their lack of knowledge in geography. In addition, Poles stubbornly thought Latvia was Lithuania and some followed their example, therefore important distinctions had to be made.

Another two weeks were spent in the chaos of trying to determine which subjects to choose. There were countless possibilities and limited number of hours in a day. A choice had to be made quickly but first at least one attendance was necessary to decipher what was hiding under a cloudy blanket of titles, especially those that presented themselves as ‘elective subject’ or ‘optional subject’ in the timetable. As one could not be in several places at once, the fellow Erasmus students were a great help.

During my Erasmus period I had the pleasure of having both wonderful and demanding professors who were an important aspect of making the experience enjoyable. My favourite subject was Shakespeare on Stage where we discussed, analyzed, recited, and watched the works of William Shakespeare and were introduced with various social and historical aspects of the Elizabethan period. Fearlessness was required to not only speak in front of the professor – a native speaker of English, but also to occasionally perform in front of a small audience of fellow students.

One of the most important aspects of Erasmus experience is the other students from foreign countries with whom most of the time is spent. We all had to go through an adaptation process and help each other out while we stumbled in an unfamiliar

place. During this time important friendships were made, culinary secrets exchanged, social, religious, political situations discussed. Erasmus provided a possibility to be in a very international company and everyone tried to make the most of it.