

My ERASMUS in Belgium (Liege)

MLBS BSP student`s Ilarija Ščerbakova story

I decided to go to Erasmus being in the second year of my Bachelor studies. Frankly speaking, when I applied for the Erasmus I was not really sure whether I am ready to take this challenge. I had some doubts whether I could live alone abroad whether my linguistic skills are well enough as I learned French only for short time.

The University of Latvia kindly gave me the possibility to go on Erasmus mobility to the University of Liege for studies. Why did I choose to do Erasmus? It seemed to me an amazing opportunity for personal development as it gives very interesting and many-sided experience.

When the day of my departure to Erasmus came, my eyes were full of tears and I was really afraid of uncertainty. I have never travelled and what is more lived alone abroad. I only had short trips abroad with my family. Erasmus was for me an extraordinary blend of travelling, studying, discovering new things and of course meeting people of so different cultures. I even couldn't imagine that going to Belgium I will meet almost the whole world! I made friends with students from Spain, Colombia, Mexico, Brazil, Poland, Burundi, Caribbean islands, Iran and many others.

I must confess that in the beginning it was difficult for me to get used to new environment and I even wanted to quit everything and return home. It seemed to be that there are more disadvantages than advantages.

One of the difficulties was to choose courses which would suite to my program but I was very curious and attended very different courses some of them were even not linked to my professional field. However, it was very interesting that I had such possibility to make myself my list of courses. In the University of Latvia I have very complex program which involves several directions of studies. I have chosen it because I hoped to understand during my years of studies what I am really interested in and what will be my future career. The choice of courses during my Erasmus helped me to understand what is really interesting for me and what I am going to focus on in my future career.

But only optimism and belief that it is an amazing experience which will have a strong footprint on my personal development and that this period of studies I will remember all my life. And now, when everything is over I understand that every day that I spend on Erasmus was worth of that. It learned me to be independent, plan my budget and time as well as I became more resolute and self-confident. All in all, Erasmus is an excellent opportunity and it is a very good chance for young people to understand who they are and to what directions move their careers. Don't be afraid, attempt and be open to the world!

