



Academia de Studii Economice din Bucuresti

Preperation

After applying and getting accepted by ASE it took quite a long time for them to respond. This is important to state, so that if this happens to you, don't be afraid, it's normal. This is due to the fact that ASE is a way bigger university than our Viadrina, meaning they have more incoming Erasmus students and with that more work. Just as a reference how long it took for them to answer, I got my class schedule a week before courses started. Don't be alarmed though, since most likely you will change most of your courses once you get there, more to that, I will discuss below. If you apply for the dormitory, there is only one you can get, which is called Belvedere, there you will have an entire floor just for you and the other Erasmus. The dormitory inside looks simple and used up to say the least. But after 1-2 hours of intense cleaning it should look survivable. By the way, in the dormitory you have a place guaranteed so don't worry, since there is no hustle in getting a place there.

Getting to Bucharest or to the dormitory is fairly easy. I took the metro and walked with the help of google maps. The metro system is one of the simplest once I have experienced and with your student discount it will most likely be the way you commute every day to the university.

If this is too adventurous for you or you want to get to the dormitory as quick as possible, Uber is the way to go, since most taxis will scam you as I experienced. Uber is so cheap by the way, I did not pay for any trip, except to the airport, more than 3 Euros. From the airport to the dormitory if you find the "low fares" it will cost you around 10 Euros, so I definitely recommend you to download that app, since you will 100% need it.

I would also recommend you get a prepaid telephone sim cards from the provider Orange. These will be the cheapest cellphone cards you will have ever gotten in your life and the service is "bomb". (Romania is known for the fastest connection in the EU)-and it's true.

An orange card will cost you 5 Euros and will have depending on their promotions that orange always offers around 40GB, yes 40GB, 300 International (EU) calls, unlimited inlands calls and messages for 1 month. Don't pass on this, and again the connection is amazing. There are literally orange shops at every street corner so you won't have a hard time getting that sim, which is a must have in my opinion.

In the first few weeks the Erasmus Team of ASE will make a lot of events through which you can get to know the city, the "sectors" to party, to study, the different faculties, museums, and more. I would recommend for you to go on these tours to get an image of the city and make some friends.

You will also get a Buddy that will help you out with whatever you need or the questions you have.

The Erasmus Team is also very welcoming and nice and is very open and helpful for helping you arrange and find courses as well as getting in contact with your professors.

University

After you have settled, cleaned your room and arranged your stuff, you now have to go to the Erasmus Coordinators/Team to discuss with them the courses you would like to take. The courses that are listed and the times will all change during the first few weeks, since professors will discuss with the students if they would like to rearrange to a more preferable time, place, order and so on.

Almost 80% of the courses get changed by either one hour or a full day. If you don't take courses from the same faculty, some of your courses will be overlapping, meaning you will have to change them.

Important to know: ALL courses have attendance obligatory. Meaning you will have to attend all of them to pass or at least for obtaining a decent grade.

All the course lecture slides and course schedule changes are all announced through Facebook-groups. So, my suggestion is to ask as fast as possible to get added to these groups, if you want to know what is going on and you want the course slides to study for exams and tests.

Apart from that the University is huge and has many faculties dispersed all throughout the city. Although the University is big as well as the student population, the normal classroom size is around 20 people meaning they are quite small. This is great though since it is easy to get to know your colleges and the teachers can help you out or explain things more in detail if you have questions. In my opinion, the teaching/education system in Romania is one of the best I have ever witnessed. I honestly learned a lot and since most teachers incorporate challenges and sort of competitions in which you can test your knowledge, classes are quite fun. Sounds cheesy I know, but it is true.

Something I have noticed compared to the German higher education system, each course in Romania transmits smaller amounts of tacit knowledge, but all the knowledge and information taught in the courses I do know.

What I am trying to say is that instead of in Germany, where you have to study a 500 page book for each class by your own, 3 months after your final exam you might be able to remember around 60% of the knowledge. Where as in Romania you get a 400 page book and remember 100%, since through the diverse teaching style and the concentrated information on the most essential and important parts of a course, you most likely will remember everything quite easily without much learning and studying by your own.

Lifestyle

You might think that Romania is cheap, well it is not. Your average consumption bundle will roughly cost the same as in other countries in Europe. What is indeed cheaper though is going out. When you go out you can easily get a beer for 5LEU meaning 1 Euro.

Speaking about the nightlife; it is insane to say the least. The clubs, bars and entertainment is next level. I have partied in Berlin, Prague, Spain...nothing compares. The clubs and bars are literally full all week around. You want to go out on a Monday for something quiet? Well good luck, the clubs as well as bars are always full and you most likely will have to stand in line, no matter which day of the week. On the weekend of course the biggest clubs open (those are quiet expensive), in those you easily can spend upwards of 100-200 Euros per night.

To sum this up, you won't be disappointed when it comes to fun.

The other aspect is the city itself. It has a well thought out and well-constructed infrastructure. The city has beautiful sights and some of the most beautiful and biggest parks I have ever seen. If you like sightseeing, you can't miss Bucharest out

The people are very nice, the culture is rich and has some of the best specialties concerning food I have tasted.

Final conclusion

Romania is a beautiful country. I do not know what you all have heard about it, but it is truly amazing. Take it from a guy that has lived in Berlin, Barcelona, Mexico City and New York. This city is different, it is full of life and honestly speaking one of my favorite cities. I had a lot of fun and by no means do I regret going. I had an amazing Erasmus and so can YOU.

La revedere! (Goodbye)