

Country: Slovenia
University abroad: University of Ljubljana
Beginning of lectures and end of exams abroad: 12/02/2020 until 10/07/2020
Study path at Viadrina: M&M [] BA [X] MA



EUROPA-UNIVERSITÄT
VIADRINA
FRANKFURT (ODER)



With a double click you can edit the information above!

Studying Abroad Experience Report

- 1) Are we allowed to publish your report anonymously on our webpage (without your name and e-Mail)?
 Yes No
- 2) Are we allowed to forward your report and contact information to a Viadrina student on request?
 Yes No
- 3) Please confirm hereby that you did not mention names of a third party (lecturer, landlord etc.)
 Yes No – in this case your report won't be published
- 4) Please be aware that all the published photos in this report have to be taken by you and are not the property of a third party. By sending this report you are giving us the legal right of use for your pictures (if we publish the report). The copyrights still belong to you after all.
 Yes, I confirm that all photos are mine.

We would appreciate it if you could include the following topics (the report should be at least two pages long, there is no maximum):

- **Preparation:** Recommendations about preparing to leave, for example (if applicable) Visa, insurance, travel? How was the application process at the university abroad? Were there any introduction events? Were they obligatory and when did they take place? Was there a Buddy program or tutors?
- **Accommodation:** How did you find your accommodation? Any tips about mistakes that should be avoided? Were there any special student accommodations? The cost of rent? Which area of living would you recommend?
- **Studying at the university abroad:** How was the day to day life on campus? Was the attendance mandatory? Which courses did you take? Were you allowed to take courses from different faculties? Please attach links to the course list if possible. How did the exams take place? Were there any language courses? What is your overall opinion of the university in general? How well did the university take care of international/exchange students?
- **Day to day life and free time:** How high are the costs of living in total? How much money should be accessible monthly? How much does the public transportation cost? What can an exchange student do in their free time? What did you do?
- **Conclusion:** worst and best experience
- **Suggestions/Feedback:** In your opinion, how can we improve our exchange program especially considering consulting, information, application process at the Viadrina? – This section is just for the department of international affairs of the Viadrina and will not be published.

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For the last 5 months I have been living and studying in Ljubljana, Slovenia.



Image: Lake Bohinj

My decision to move to the city and take part of the Erasmus experience was based on different factors. First of all, I had already done an Erasmus previously. So, I had an idea of what to expect when moving to a new country to study. Second, I had some friends and connections in Slovenia and for a long time I wanted to visit them and get to know this beautiful country. Third, there are so many different activities to take part of in the city and on the country side, that I was certain I would never regret choosing this place. Last but not least, Ljubljana has an amazing University, a great variety of courses, and the fact that around 50.000 students come to the city to pursue their studies.

The application process at the university was really smooth. I have received all the information (course catalogue, information for the introductory week, advice for accommodation, etc.) per email several weeks in advance. Also, the university facilitates students the possibility of staying at dormitories that are quite close to the student faculty. It is extremely important to apply for it on time, since these dormitories have a really high demand. In my case, my dormitory (Dorm D Bezigrad) was situated just in front of the Economics Faculty, this dormitory has a free parking which was really helpful to me since I traveled to Slovenia by car. I would recommend every student to apply for a dormitory, because it is cheaper than any other accommodation (I was paying around 160 per month), it is much easier to make friends and establish connections with other students, and it is a big plus to have the faculty nearby. However, it is important to mention that all the rooms at dormitories in Ljubljana are shared, which means that you will be sharing your room with another person who will sleep one meter far away from you. I have to admit that when I found out about this, I felt somehow hesitant, sharing a room with a stranger for 6 months was something I didn't expect me to do before going to Slovenia. Fortunately, I had a great experience with my roommate, which turned out he was from my hometown (we didn't know each other in advance). Most of the friends I made there also had great experiences with their roommates. My advice is, try to get to know the person you are living with, make as much plans you can with him/her, and most important: communicate! If this is not for you, and in the end, you decide to rent a private flat, you have to be aware that many landlords try to take advantage of students. So, try to contact other students through FB/Whatsapp groups several months in advance and ask about their experience and whether they will be moving out from the flat.

Although now the situation is pretty uncertain due to the Corona, I recommend you find a place next to your Faculty, because it is probably the place you will have to come more often. Buying a bike to move around the city is also a big plus (you will find them for less than 50 euros). But you can always use the city bikes which you only need to pay 3 euros and you will be able to use them for the whole year, the only downside from it is that you can use them only for one hour, after that you need to lock them in a station for 2 minutes. Then, you can lend it again.

Public transport is also a good option to move around Ljubljana, taxis are cheap in comparison to other cities. Just as an example, a ride from my dormitory in Bezigrad to the center (5 Km approx.), was around 5 Euros.

A huge advantage for students in Slovenia is the Boni system. These are meal coupons for students which will allow you to eat in a variety of restaurants really cheap (you will pay between 0€ and 4,60€ per meal depending on the restaurant). The government subsidizes 2,69€, and you pay the rest of the menu cost. These menus include a soup, a salad, a main dish and a fruit. So, you will have the opportunity to eat at restaurants every day without spending too much money. This saved me a lot of time and money during my Erasmus and help me to meet new people. The price of food in supermarkets in general is quite similar to Germany, alcohol is slightly more expensive, though. Overall, I was spending around 500 € per month, this included: rent for the flat, food, entrance for parties, public transport, and gasoline (1€/L) for the car to do some trip or go hiking on the weekends. Renting cars is also really cheap in comparison to Germany or Spain, you can rent a car for the weekend for just 40 €.

There are so many incredible places to visit in Slovenia and outdoor activities, that I left the city with the feeling that one semester was not enough for me. Some of them are: Kranskagora, Skocjan caves, Bled Lake, Vintgar Valley.

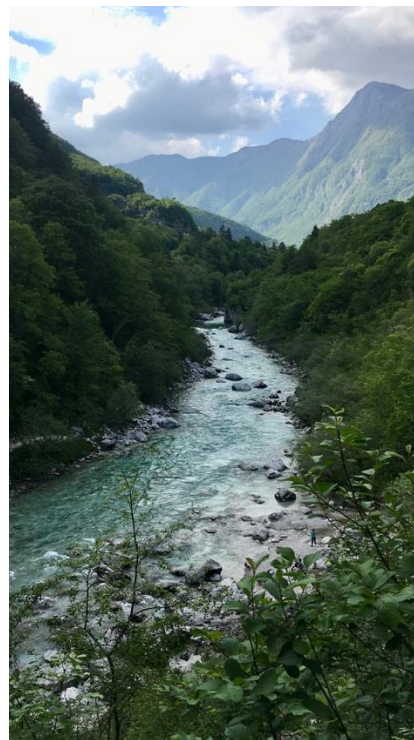


Image: and Soca Valley

To conclude this experience report I would like to mention that the worst experience I have had in Slovenia was the fact that Corona took place during my Erasmus, but when a door closes a window opens. This situation led me to meet new people who stayed at the dorm, but I never met before. After the quarantine we made lot of plans together and I know I will keep contact with them in the future.

Best experience was every single day I lived there, I can't choose a single experience because every day was better than the previous one. Slovenians are in general really open-minded people, and I felt really welcome in every situation. And I would repeat every day there if I had the chance.