

Report of Experience.

Name: Ekaterina Denisova

Specialization, class: International Relations

Academic year: 2

Country and city of destination: France, Toulouse

Receiving institution: Sciences Po Toulouse.

This year I had an amazing opportunity to take part in Erasmus+ mobility from the University of Pécs. After long consideration, I have chosen the Sciences Po in Toulouse as it is very famous and respectful university of political science with experienced and reputable professors and great history. My mobility period took part between 14th of January 2019 to 30th of April 2019.

Unfortunately, in the moment of preparation for my travelling I faced certain difficulties since I was told that the University residence was already full, and I could not get a room there. However, I could solve this problem by finding the accommodation myself with the help of the Airbnb website. Finally, I rented a little cozy room with a fee of nearly 400 euros per month located in 20 minutes from the city center.

The welcoming day took part in the very beginning of the program, and there students had an opportunity to meet some professors and administration team of the Sciences Po Toulouse, ask different questions and start an enrollment for the courses and apply for the student card. Moreover, I would like to mention specially the student organization of the University called Mondus, designed to help and support incoming students, providing them all information about studying and leisure time as well. The buddy system was also operating in this organization. Together with ESN Toulouse they made this period less challenging for us and created many different events for our entertainment and cultural exchange.

I discovered Toulouse as a very breathtaking city with amazing architecture, delicious cuisine and active student life. More by token, Toulouse is recognized as the most “student” cities in France. Therefore, it was easy to find different places for all kind of activities and to make new friends from all around the globe. Moreover, despite the stereotype, that it would be hard to survive in France without good knowledge of French, I never faced any difficulties in communication in English in different public places and with usual people as well. The system of public transport is well developed and not complicated in Toulouse. I was usually using the bus and the subway. Nevertheless, everything in the city center can be reached by walk. Moreover, there are a lot of beautiful towns around Toulouse such as Auch, Albi or Carcassonne where you can enjoy the atmosphere of real France and try various traditional dishes.

Most of my professors were brilliant specialist with a very good English. Although, it took some time for us to understand and get used to French educational system and to adjust to this style of teaching. Each of the classes in Sciences Po requires a lot of self-discipline and initiative from students. Grades are usually based not just on final test and participation but also on different projects, essays or presentations made by students. I guess, the best memories and the most useful experiences I gained because of a lot of group tasks and assignments I was involved in. It gave us a great opportunity to get to know each other better and arrange discussions where people from different countries and continents could share their ideas.

In my opinion, Erasmus in Toulouse is perfect for open-minded people who are not afraid to leave their zone of comfort and be tolerant to different ideas and points of view. The university of Political Science can give a student a great opportunity to study about politics from the best teachers, to participate in interesting discussions with international and French students and to attend different conferences arranged by University. It is an ideal place for those who are not afraid to work hard, showing their initiative and potential.



