

Erasmus + 2014/2015

I have had an amazing Erasmus year in Kecskemét. I am delighted that I took the opportunity to study abroad for a year. I found that it was most beneficial to have the full year. Over the year I learned so much; about myself and about different cultures. I feel that I have become much more independent as a result.

The college was very helpful. Both Eszter and Atilla were very kind and gave us the help we needed whenever we asked for it. The International department were most welcoming. The lecturers were also very helpful. As we had many music lessons we meet with Attila Smuta regularly. He is a very good teacher. He was most insightful and motivational. The lessons that we attended in college were good. However I was disappointed that the Kodaly module was not in operation in the way that it was promised. I had thought that there would be lesson observation in the Kodaly primary school as this was done in previous years. I would have expected that we would have seen more of the Kodaly method in practice. I would recommend that in future more of an emphasis to be put on the Kodaly method as this was one of the sole reasons I came to Kecskemét.

Teaching Practice was most enjoyable. Zrínyi school is a lovely and welcoming school. I worked with helpful and kind teachers. I really enjoyed teaching the various classes. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to teach the children about the Irish culture. We learned so much about the Hungarian culture and traditions from the children and teachers also. The children included us in extra activities such as the Talent Show. Cairíona, Amy and I joined our classes together to teach some Irish songs to our 4th grade. This was a rewarding experience. The children worked hard and we were so proud of them!

The Erasmus group comprised of a mix of different nationalities in first semester. This was wonderful as it was lovely to meet people from different cultures. In semester 1 we regularly had parties together. Semester 2 was a little different as there weren't as many students. There was a lot of Irish and we missed having a range of different nationalities. It would be better if there was a mix of nationalities.

Hungary is a beautiful country. I am so glad that I came to experience a new culture. As it was my first time in Hungary I didn't know what to expect. We met lots of lovely people and made great Hungarian friendships. Hungary is also in a great location for travelling. It was wonderful that we could travel by bus or train to the neighbouring countries.

This Erasmus year has been incredible. I have learned so much. It was a different type of education, away from the study and the books but real life experiences that will stand to me. I feel that this year has given me an opportunity to mature and become more independent.

Thank you so much for all your help and support over the past year Eszter and Atilla!

Siobhán Maloney



Last meeting with Smuta!



Puppetry day in the college



Wine Tasting in Cegléd



Erasmus group semester 2



Visit to the Mercedes factory (semester 2)



Semester 1



Holidaying on Hvar island in Croatia.