

Erasmus+ Course Review: Deirdre McGuane

The College:

Positives:

- The Teacher Training College has a really nice homely atmosphere and the students and staff were very welcoming. I felt very welcome in the college.
- The Erasmus+ Course was a very enjoyable experience (in both semesters). I loved learning about the other Erasmus students' cultures and education systems. The different events that were organised for us were also very enjoyable (I particularly enjoyed the trip to the vineyard in semester 1 and the trips to the Parliament and the National Park in semester 2).
- There were good facilities in the college (such as the library, the gym and the music rooms where we could practice the piano).
- Eszter and Atilla were very helpful throughout the course of the year and made sure that we were enjoying our Erasmus experience and getting the most out of it.

Me at National Park:



The Party Life:

Positives:

-The party life in Kecskemét is very enjoyable when you make the most of it. I loved the folk dance nights in Kilele on Wednesday nights and especially the karaoke nights in the synagogue on Thursday nights. These were good opportunities to go out with the other Erasmus students and to meet with local Hungarians as well.

-We also used to go into Budapest a lot for the weekends as it is so easy to get to on the train. I loved going in to Budapest to explore the city by day and to then try out the night life there at night. It was an excellent experience.

Negatives:

-It would be brilliant if there were more student nights out (the Red Colt parties were always fantastic).

The Courses and the Teachers:

-It was wonderful to have the opportunity to teach in the Petrofi school for the whole year. I loved working with the teachers and the students there. Everyone was so kind to me and so helpful. I learned a lot about teaching this year because of Teaching Practice. I also enjoyed taking part in the talent show in the Zrinyi school. Ambrus Ildikó helped me so much and she was such a kind a caring mentor to have. She really helped me with my teaching a lot.

-The music lectures in the college which we received from Mr. Attila Smuta were excellent. He was a highly motivational and very inspirational teacher and he really made me think deeply about how best to teach music to children. I especially enjoyed his conducting classes and his creative music pedagogy lessons.

Negatives:

-It was very disappointing that we never got to observe a lesson in the Kodály school as this was something that we really wanted to do, especially as music education is such a large part of our degree.

Hungary:

Positives:

-I have completely fallen in love with Hungary after living here for the year. We travelled around to many different places such as Lake Balaton, Pécs, Budapest and Csongrad.

Lake Balaton:



My first time painting Easter Eggs!



(This was in Csongrad with Klári Szabó-who was the BEST BUDDY EVER!!)

She took me to my first pig killing also...



...and we made kolbaszt!!



Pécs:



And of course, Kecskemét:



(our first day of many happy memories).

Puppetry Day with Children

