

MY ERASMUS EXPERIENCE IN HUNGARY

My name is María I am 20 years old and I come from Santander, a small town in the north of Spain. I have been living in Madrid for two years and as I wanted to meet new people, new cultures and live new experiences I decided to join the Erasmus program. When my university told me that my destination was Kecskemét I was a bit disappointed because it was a small town in the middle of Hungary, it was not a European capital with a lot of people and activities to do. But after 10 months living there I have to say that those months have been the bests ones of my life. I knew that the Erasmus experience was something that changes you but you don't really know what people are talking about until you live it.

Everything was so exciting since the very first day. New places to visit and discover, new people, new things to do... There were other students from different parts of the world that were ready to have the best time of their life like me. The first week the university here planned the orientation week full of activities and trips. That was amazing, thanks to that we met a lot of Hungarian people that later will became our friends. That is one of the reasons I am so happy I went to Kecskemét because I had the opportunity to meet Hungarians and learn their culture and traditions, I only know few words and sentences in Hungarian because it is super difficult. Facts that if I were in Budapest I couldn't have experience. Every Wednesday there was a program called "English chat club" where for two hours (18:00-20:00) we made different activities like

games, presentations, competitions... and there we met a lot of people from different ages and countries. It was really cool, I have enjoyed it a lot. There was also on Wednesday's evening the Hungarian Folk Dance, where we used to go to have fun and learn the Hungarian traditional dances. Apart from that there was the Spanish chat club (Tuesdays) and the French chat club (Thursdays) these were more like a language course to learn the language through activities and games and it was great.

I am studying at the teacher training faculty because I want to be a primary teacher. The first semester we had some interesting subjects like EFL (English as a foreign language), Inclusion in Education, History of the EU, etc where the teachers were very nice with us. We were a small group (5 students) because it was only for Erasmus people. We had some practice in a primary school, each of us went twice a week to teach for 45 minutes a day English lessons. I had a really good time with them, it was an awesome experience and I learned a lot.

The second semester was different, we studied the Kodály music modul where we had subjects like Music pedagogy, Choral conducting, Historical dances, piano lessons, etc. It was a nice opportunity to be closer to the musical content. We also had practice in other primary school but this time we taught, only once a week, musical lessons.

My friends were from different parts of Europe like France, Germany, Greece, Turkey, Hungary and Spain. I have improved my level of English thanks to this because we were three Spanish people in total so we were speaking in English all the time since we were always together.

With them I have travelled a lot as it is not expensive because we are in the middle of Europe. We have travelled to countries like Romania, Check Republic, Poland, Austria, Slovakia, etc. And it was just amazing, these people have become my family. We have also travelled around Hungary to awesome places like Balaton lake, Szeged, Pecs, Budapest (which is only one hour by train and we used to go to party).

I have nothing more to say than if you come to Kecskemét
I am sure that you will have a really good experience here
with nice and friendly Hungarian and foreigner people,
like I have had.

Thank you Kecskemét!