

Erasmus+ Mobility Participants' Experience in 2023 (Students)

Host organisation: **Brno University of Technology**, Kolejní 2906/4, Brno 61200, **Czech Republic**

Mobility participant: Magalage Chathurangi Harshila Perera

Mobility period: 06.02.2023- 11.06.2023

Type of mobility: Student mobility for studies

Through this program I hoped to experience different learning practices and gain international and intercultural competencies, critical thinking, media literacy, and cultural awareness. Also, I believed that this program will help me learn to balance my finances and stick to a budget. Most importantly I wanted to get to know people in different countries and that will help me to create strong bonds and have friends for a lifetime. Not limited to that, since I am a travel lover, I thought this program will be more helpful for me to travel to my favorite places in Europe.

I have a very pleasant experience in cooperation with both sending and receiving universities before, during, and after the mobility. Both coordinators were very supportive and friendly. Both were very responsive and provided every important information and guidelines. Here I should specially mention about the support given by the Erasmus Coordinator of my Sending University Ms. Marina Tihomirova. She is a very dedicated person for her job and always stayed in touch with us and assisted us all the time.

I am fully satisfied with my academic experience. I could experience different kinds of learning methods during this study period. Not only Czech Lecturers but there were also some lecturers from other countries such as Austria. They had different types of teaching methods. I learned more about International economics and International businesses specially focusing on Europe. Also I could improve my communication skills, English knowledge, presentation skills and team work. I could improve Czech communication skills as well. And also I met new friends from different countries such as Egypt, Turkey, Nigeria, and Germany and I could build a strong network with them. Also I traveled beautiful places in Czech Republic such as Punkva Cave, Macocha Abyss...etc.

Among all the things, my brightest impression is having the opportunity to experience Czech culture. Czech Republic is a very beautiful country with very friendly people. When they meet someone, they always says "dobari den" even to the strangers with a smiley face.

Erasmus+ will be the best opportunity you will get in your life. I invite other students to take this opportunity to explore the world and take the maximum benefit from it. I'm sure it will be an experience for your live time.



Host organisation: **Brno University of Technology**, Kolejní 2906/4, Brno 61200, **Czech Republic**

Mobility participant: Malawara Arachchige Chathura Vimukthi

Mobility period: 06.02.2023- 11.06.2023

Type of mobility: Student mobility for studies

Q1: Why did you choose to participate in Erasmus+ study mobility?

I chose to participate in the Erasmus+ study mobility program because I wanted to expand my academic and cultural horizons. The opportunity to study abroad in a different country allowed me to experience a new educational system, gain a global perspective, and develop my intercultural skills. I also saw it as a chance to meet new people, make lifelong friendships, and create unforgettable memories.

Q2: What was the experience in cooperation with the sending and receiving institutions before, during, and after the mobility?

The cooperation between the sending institution, EKA University in Riga, Latvia, and the receiving institution, Brno University of Technology in Brno, Czech Republic, was exceptional throughout the entire process. Before the mobility, both institutions provided comprehensive information and guidance regarding the application process, required documents, and available courses. During the mobility, they ensured a smooth transition by assisting with accommodation, course registration, and orientation programs. After the mobility, they facilitated the recognition of credits earned abroad and provided ongoing support for any academic queries or administrative matters.

Q3: What are your academic and personal benefits from Erasmus+ study mobility?

The Erasmus+ study mobility brought numerous academic and personal benefits. Academically, I had the opportunity to study in a different academic environment, which broadened my knowledge and understanding of my field of study. Interacting with professors and students from different cultural backgrounds enhanced my critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Personally, the experience helped me develop independence, adaptability, and resilience. It boosted my confidence in navigating unfamiliar situations and improved my communication and teamwork abilities through intercultural interactions.

Q4: What were your brightest impressions when living abroad during the Erasmus+ study period?

Living abroad during my Erasmus+ study period was filled with unforgettable impressions. The vibrant atmosphere of Brno, with its historical architecture and lively cultural scene, left a lasting impression on me. Interacting with Erasmus+ participants from various countries exposed me to diverse perspectives and deepened my appreciation for different cultures. Exploring enchanting places such as the Punkva Cave and castles allowed me to witness the rich history and natural beauty of the Czech Republic. Immersing myself in the local cuisine and traditions added a delightful layer to my experience.

Q5: What kind of practical advice would you like to give to students considering taking part in Erasmus+ study mobility?

For students considering Erasmus+ study mobility, I would offer the following practical advice:

Plan and prepare in advance: Familiarize yourself with the application process, required documents (specially for Visa), and deadlines to ensure a smooth application experience.

Research your host country: Learn about the local culture, customs, and practical aspects such as accommodation options and transportation systems.

Embrace cultural differences: Be open-minded and willing to learn from the diverse perspectives you will encounter. Respect and appreciate the cultural nuances of your host country.

Engage in social activities: Participate in Erasmus+ events and activities, join student clubs or organizations, and make an effort to meet local and international students. This will enhance your experience and foster meaningful connections.

Step out of your comfort zone: Be proactive in exploring your host city, trying new experiences, and stepping out of your comfort zone. Embrace challenges as opportunities for growth and learning.

Q6: Other aspects that you feel are relevant to your Erasmus+ study period.

Apart from the mentioned aspects, the Erasmus+ study period allowed me to improve my language skills. Being immersed in a foreign language environment enabled me to practice and enhance my language proficiency, which has been valuable for both personal and professional development.



Host organisation: **University of Economics in Katowice**, ul. 1 Maja 50 40-287 Katowice, **Poland**

Mobility participant: Alkhair Gastello

Mobility period: 02.10.2023-01.02.2024

Type of mobility: Student mobility for studies

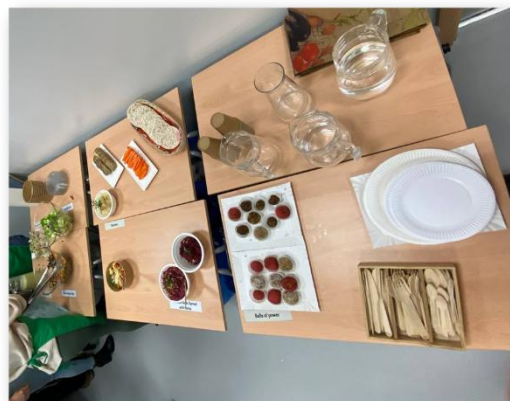
Hello, my name is Alkhair Gastello and I am 3rd year student of Bachelor at EKA university of applied sciences in Latvia, Riga. I had participated in ERASMUS mobility for one semester from the start of October till end of January, I chose the University of Economics in Poland, Katowice. Actually, there are three main reasons why I was interested in participating in mobility. Firstly, gaining new experience and knowledge was the crucial key in taking part. Second reason is travelling, seeing new cities and exploring new places for me is really important till I am young. And finally, challenging myself was also playing role, as I was going alone, I wanted to see how can I adapt and get on in the new place.

Regarding the administration processes, from the two universities, I have received as much as possible assistance. They were always available and open to give a hand. Thanks to them.

Studying at the University in Katowice was really good, the campus of university is really big. Regarding the education, each professor is well-educated and easily can keep up with students. The knowledge which I have gained from these professors is priceless, they are all really contemporary and using digital tools.

For me the brightest moment during my mobility was the first time being in the new country. It was really impressive and exploring new places was really magnificent. University staff welcomed me all and provided all necessary information for the first time. Also, each student had the ERASMUS buddy, who is student either.

I highly recommend to take part in the ERASMUS mobility, because it is giving so many opportunities for the student, starting from the education till finding new friends from other countries. Personally, this program helped me to identify some aspects of my personality, character and my capability. Don't be late and take all opportunities!



Host organisation: **Annapurna Events**, 62 Av. Ravel le Rouge, Chamonix, 74400, **France**

Mobility participant: Muhammed Juneer Panikkaveettil Rasheed

Mobility period: 03.03.2023 31.05.2023

Type of mobility: Student mobility for traineeship

- *Why did you choose to participate in Erasmus + traineeship mobility?*

As a travel enthusiast, I really like going to new places and feeling the diversity in culture and tradition. So, from the very first moment I heard about this program, I was sure that this opportunity would work great for me. Also, it can boost my career by providing required skills in my profession.

- *What was the experience in cooperation with the sending and receiving institutions before, during and after the mobility?*

My plan was to do a 3-month summer internship after my second semester. So, I have started preparing early, around 4 months before ending my second semester. But it was quite easy to find a perfect one in my dream cities. Later I asked my coordinator from university, and she helped me to start preparing for my internship documents. As a result, I found a couple of best options and went for it. I was a bit late with the paperwork, but my coordinator and supervisor from the host company helped a lot and I was able to finish those works in a couple of weeks and went for it.

- *What are your academic and personal benefits from Erasmus + traineeship mobility?*

This was my second time doing an internship and it went great for me. First of all, there were no pressure in choosing my works for the traineeship and there were a couple of supervisors who were helping us to improve my work. I also got the opportunity to work with colleagues from other fields as well. I wasn't sure about what to do with my future, but this mobility helped me to find the hidden talents in me, like customer service and hospitality management. The program also made a really big impact on my personality. I made good friends both inside and outside my workplace, I got good international connections, it helps to develop new passions like travel, hiking, cooking etc.

- *What were your brightest impressions when living abroad during the Erasmus + traineeship period?*

I was almost an introverted person and had a really hard time making friends. So, one of the main advantages of choosing this mobility was I learned how to talk to people and make new friends. Also, my company gave me some opportunity to directly interact with our customers and it help me a lot in gaining that conference.

- *What kind of practical advice would you like to give to students who are considering taking part in Erasmus + traineeship mobility?*

If you have good language skills and like to work/study in an international environment, then Erasmus+ must be the best platform for you. Start preparing early, choose your institution wisely, prepare all the documents on time and you will be living your dream.

- *Other aspects that you feel are relevant to your Erasmus + traineeship period.*

Nothing much, It is one of the best opportunities that allows you to both learn new things and enjoy your life at the same time. so, don't miss this chance.

- *We kindly ask you to include 3-5 photo images from your Erasmus+ traineeship mobility.*

