<u>MY ERASMUS EXPERIENCE</u>

I am a student of Sociology, and I was on my 3rd year of University when I decided that I wanted to live the Erasmus experience. Honestly, this was not in my plans before, since I thought that I had to take many responsibilities, and I was hesitating because it would be the first time in my life to be living abroad alone, in a place that I knew no one. Now that this experience is over I feel more blessed and privileged, than ever, to have grabbed this opportunity that was given to me. In addition, the fact that I went on Erasmus for a semester and I ended up staying the whole year, I guess can express my excitement and thankfulness for this experience.

On 15th of September 2017, I embarked on a magical journey which started off in Berlin, that would change my life completely. Everything started when I first entered the dorms that I would be living in and met suddenly so many people from so many different countries and cultures welcoming me in such a way that I thought we have been friends for many years now, even though they knew nothing about me. So, I immediately realized that I am in the right place, and this experience would be the best one I ever had.



Another major advantage that I had as an Erasmus student is that I traveled a lot. I still can't believe that in one year I visited more than 20 different cities from different countries, mostly. I never thought before that I will be liking so many foods from so many different countries and learn so many interesting facts about countries that I barely knew about. As I also, never thought that I will have so many friends around the world that I am still in touch

with and planning to visit. Therefore, there are no words to explain this amazing opportunity that was given to me.

I can still recall the memories of my exchange year just like a vivid dream from yesterday, and even though many years will pass by I will always have a strong connection with that place and these people that helped me become a better and more open-mined person. I feel comprehensively grateful for this opportunity that Erasmus+ gave me, and very thankful to the Erasmus team of my receiving University, and to the team of my home University that made this experience so unique and unforgettable.

All I can say is: "Once Erasmus, Always Erasmus". 🎔

Artiola Brahaj Erasmus Student in Berlin, Germany 2017-2018