

My Erasmus Semester in Zagreb, Croatia



I am 22 years old and a German student from the University of Heilbronn (HHN) where I study Human Resource Management in my last semester.

Why did I choose Croatia for my Erasmus+ destination?

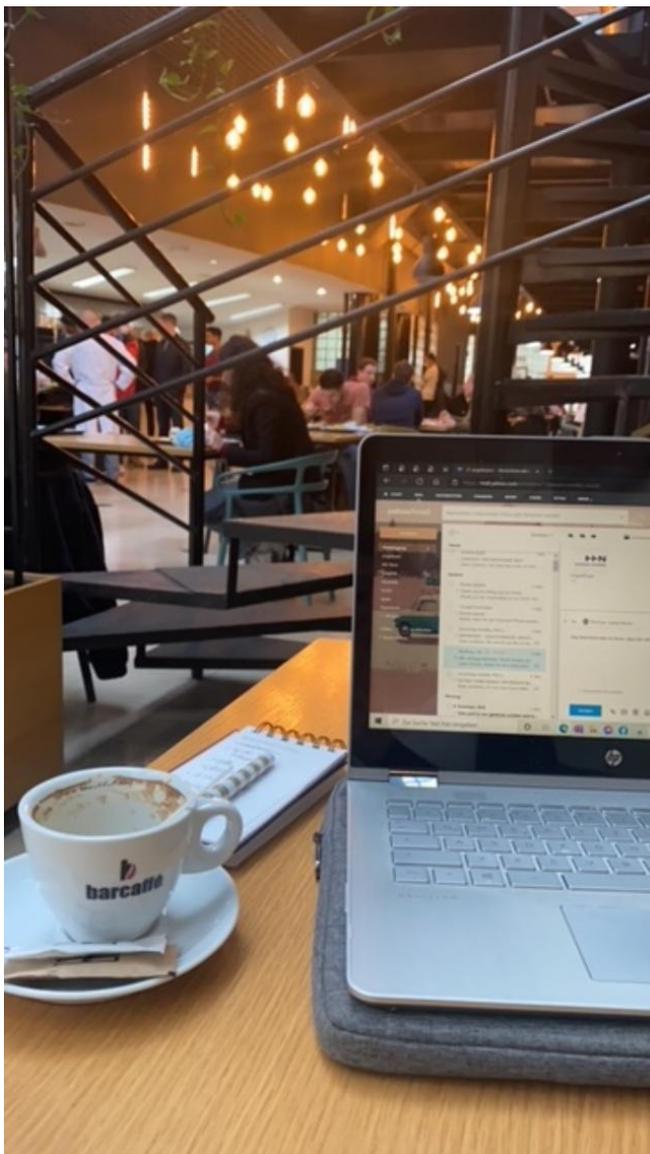
I grew up in Germany with a mother from Croatia. I always heard much about the Croatian culture and language but never experienced it by my own beside of the summer holidays on the coast there. So I wanted to take advantage of the chance to do my living there and by the way finishing my degree, improving my English skills and making new friends.

How was my daily life in Croatia?

Everyday began with a huge coffee what is really part of the culture. I was living in a shared apartment with 3 other internationals of Croatia, Spain and Germany. Our spoken language in the flat was English. I had university 3 times a week. I did my way to the faculty of economics with the tram and it took me about 25 minutes to go there. In the classes we always talked in English and we were in classes with internationals all over Europe but also Croatian students. We did our break in the cafeteria with very cheap food over about 1-2 euros. After that went out for coffee or the Maksimir Park which is near by the university. During the night we had a plenty of opportunities to go out for partying (until 12 pm), local bars or the cinema. We travelled much during the weekends. Mostly we rent a car and went to

the countries near by like Bosnia, Austria or just to the coast of Croatia. But also the flights to other countries more far away were very affordable.

How was the university?



The university was very developed. We had hybrid classes, so online and on-site at the same time. Also, the level of English was quite good. I can recommend the food in the cafeteria, maybe not the healthiest but very cheap. You can get it with the students' card of the university and you can go to one of the several cafeterias in Zagreb. Also, the student cards offers you many discounts in museums or parks. What offers you also many discounts is an ESN Card. It is from the ESN institution; they do events for international students. One thing I want to mention is that Croatians have a different university system. We did way more practices, attendance was counted, and we had assignments as good as every week. So one need to put more effort

during the whole semester but less at the end. One could also choose between having only one end-exam or having more smaller test or two midterms (depends on the subject).



What was the best?

Definitely getting in touch with so many different persons from all over the world! I met people from everywhere and got in touch with their cultures in terms of habits, food, schedules, etc. It was amazing talking with them about similarities and cultural differences. Also, Zagreb turns out to be a very good travel destination and has many options of going outside. It was in general very nice to be surrounded by people with similar lifestyles or at least belief-systems. So we sometimes very spontaneously decided to go travelling, do a trip or whatever.

What was the worst?

The worst was that one couldn't pay everywhere with card. It was not well seen. Also, the English level of an average Croatian is not always the best & they did not always react too friendly.

Would I recommend Zagreb as a destination?

Totally! The only thing I would add is that one should be openminded for new persons and activities. Also, there should be a good budget for travelling.

Thank you for reading and whoever will have the opportunity of going to Zagreb, just do it!