

## **Poland: City of Lublin**

### **Lublin University of Technology,**

#### **ERM: Summer semester 2021/2022**

Participating in an exchange semester abroad, either within Europe or outside of the EU, requires extensive preparation that takes a lot of time. So I started planning before six months of the start of my Erasmus+ program abroad.

The decisive factor for me when I was choosing a hosting University were more the modules presented in the catalogue of programs more than the country itself, and Lublin university of technology provided exactly what I was looking for.

I gathered information about the application forms and requirements from my University and the host University websites, even though I was confused with a few questions about the paper work, the responsible of the Erasmus+ program of my University Mrs. Karin Robel helped me and clarified the procedures of the application forms. After I submitted all required papers and the by the time my semester abroad was two weeks away from starting , I knew that due to Covid19 my abroad semester may be different in terms of attending the courses, I was a little bit sceptic and doubtful about travelling because I was not even vaccinated, and in addition to that travelling restrictions and regulations back then could have affected my semester there, moreover I was not convinced to spend an entire semester in Poland without fully taking advantage of that experience.

I contacted the host University and was informed that the classes will be held online, so I decided to take the whole semester online without travelling to Poland. To be honest doing an Erasmus+ semester online is not ideal, so I would not advice any student to do it as it take most of its importance from discovering a new country to knowing new cultures and different people from around the globe, but as I mentioned previously my choice was heavily affected due to the pandemic.

When I started the semester, I noticed that some modules from which I selected were not available, so I had to change them with other ones. The coordinator of the faculty held an online meeting with all the students, breaking down all the semester schedule and planning and in which of course everyone was allowed to ask questions concerning if needed.

During all the semester, I received numerous emails from the faculty coordinator, department heads, and the lecturers, telling me all about the measures that were being taken to provide the best learning experiences for students during this unprecedented time and keeping me up to date of any news regarding the modules or exams. We had different tasks from the modules that we had to submit, some presentations and final exams. This structure was familiar to me since it was similar to the programs I did before at my home University and previously in my academic journey. The lectures took place online in Microsoft teams from Monday to Thursday, some sessions were lectures and other lab sessions in which we solved exercises or the professors showed us experiments, and attending the lectures was mandatory and part of the grades.

Since all the courses were online, the lecturers did all their best to answer all the questions even after the sessions with contacting them via email or Microsoft office and kept sending extra materials to us as examples related to our module topics.

Overall, I would definitely recommend any student doing the Erasmus+ semester abroad to travel rather than doing it online as it will limit and minimize the whole point of it, as for doing it online in my experience it is literally the opposite, but like I mentioned before, if it was not for the pandemic, I would certainly traveled and enjoyed more that experience.