

POLAND

WROCLAW

WROCLAW UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

PREPARATION

I first enquired about the Erasmus program in May 2016, almost 10 months before the actual beginning of the mobility. It took several visits to the office of the coordinator at BTU, but I was able to submit most documents by October 2016.

As far as Online Language Support – Language “Q & A” Test is concerned, I wouldn’t worry too much if you don’t do too well on this, because the test is full of typos and wrong grammatical usages in the “Q” part, to anyone’s disbelief.

ACCOMMODATION

I was determined not to go to Wroclaw unless I get a place in the dorm, and the problem was that they did not inform me that I got a place until 2 weeks before the beginning of the mobility.

But I could not find any accurate info on my dorm room, as there were no website pages with photos. The info on the configuration of the room, the kitchen and the toilet was nowhere to be found until...

I arrived at the dorm and then realized why the university did not provide any info on the dorm: in order not to scare us away.

I was put in a room with 3 students, with me inclusive, and the kitchen and the toilet were shared by the people on the floor. The dorm looked nice from outside.



I was expecting to have Polish roommates, but I was accommodated on the floor with only foreign students. Most students on my floor were Erasmus students, but my roommates weren't. They were first-semester, full-time students from Turkey and India. All this made it more difficult for me to socialize with Polish students or with other Erasmus students.

STUDYING

The Department of Architecture is accommodated in just one building, shown in the photo.



The building is over 100 years old, and I felt like I was finally studying at an European university.

I am enrolled in a MA program under the Faculty of Architecture at BTU but am not studying architecture itself.

I went to Wroclaw with information and belief that I could take classes in architecture that do not require background in architecture. That was not the case.

3 of the 4 classes (that accounted for 12 out of 16 units), both of which were labs, definitely required some background. So I had a hard time throughout the semester, but in the end I manage to push through, thanks partly to the leniency for Erasmus students.

In one of the 3 classes we were supposed to create an image of sort of post-apocalyptic vision caused by city planning gone bad.

The following photo is supposed to show "Flying Cars in Wroclaw in 2015," created by combining a photo of Wroclaw I took from atop a tower in Wroclaw and a photo of fireworks I took in Düsseldorf by Photoshop.



DAILY LIFE AND FREE TIME

First and foremost, I have to say the city of Wrocław is more pleasant than any other cities I have ever lived, including Tokyo, Los Angeles and Berlin.

When I was not studying, I was most often working online.

But the dorm life with my roommates and other Erasmus students turned out to be sort of fun.

I also enjoyed cost-effective but high-quality performances of symphony and opera in Wrocław.

The photo show the interior of the National Forum of Music, a brand new venue for the Wrocław Philharmonic.

