

Wrocław University of Environmental and Life  
Sciences, Wrocław Poland

Faculty of environmental engineering and geodesy

Institute of environmental engineering



**Erasmus Experience report**

**Second cycle**

**Winter semester 2020/2021 session**

## Introduction

The ability to increase my academic prowess has always been an engine that drives my interest, there are always something to discover and discoveries is exciting. Erasmus Plus gave me an opportunity to explore other fields of study as well strengthen subjects already learnt.

Telling my experience of the program is exciting as it gives me the chance to relive the experiences I had.

## Preparation phase

Deciding about going for an exchange program was not such a difficult process for me, as I had a strong desire to learn and acquire knowledge, be it learning for certificates or for cultural experience. The difficulty I faced in deciding where to go is what was a bit challenging. I was looking for how I can maximise the opportunity before me to learn, to expand my network as well as meet new people and learn new culture. Although I would have always loved to travelling to faraway country, I was left with minimal choice due to the coronavirus pandemic which limited my option to Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences not only because it was close to my sending university that gives me some level of safety, but also because they have quality courses that fits my academic goals.

## Accommodation in the host university

Getting accommodation was not a problem for me due to the mechanism put in place by the host university. During the preparation phase after my application has been accepted, I was contacted through email by the host university with comprehensive information about the available accommodations, their costs, rules and the process in acquiring accommodation as well as the various types available. The living condition in the dormitory is some worth different from what I am used to from my sending university. I will consider it uncomfortable, owing to the present world health crisis however, the administration ensures that all safety measures were followed to the letter to ensure everyone was safe.

## Studying at the host university

Studying at the Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences was quite interesting because of the mode of teaching. The professors are competent and very patient in discharging their duties, they ensure students understand the contents and goal of their courses and courses are taught in a more practical fashion.

The learning environment was a little bit coarse to me as would be expected from a university that is situated in a major city like Wrocław. Besides that however, life in the city was entertaining and it feels the right balance when compared to the city of my sending university that is more or less perfect for appropriate learning.

In most of the courses I did, we were given projects to do from the start of lectures that we were expected to submit at the end of the program. The projects are evaluated on weekly basis to ensure we follow up with what was taught. The most fascinating thing about the projects is that, they were practically and technically structured that requires the use of software and technical report writing, with this I was able to advance my knowledge on GIS, excel and learnt how to use a new software (AutoCAD).

As beautiful as it were with their form of teaching however, there were some setbacks that is worth mentioning. Although the setback would not be entirely considered significant owing the current health crisis the world is facing, it is something that takes away the excitement complete learning brings. In two of the 5 courses I partook, I was the only person taught, and some courses I intended doing was cancelled because there were not enough students registered for it. As of what was explained to me by the Erasmus coordinator, those courses were too rigorous to be taught for just a single attendee. The university however should be commended for making efforts toward those courses I was the only attendee.

## Everyday life and free time activities

The city of Wrocław is among the biggest city in Poland with over 600,000 inhabitant and with a huge number of students including huge number from other part of the world. There were a lot of historic sites including sites termed as World Heritage by UNESCO.

Living in the city for me was fascinating, it feels always entertaining especially visiting the Rynek Rathaus (market square) in the evening where there were always a lot of people eating, drinking or loitering. Beside the restrictions due to Covid19, life was never boring. In the dormitory there is always noise from partying students who could not easily hold back their excitement.

Living in the city was not very expensive especially as a student, there were a lot of restaurants and shops that sells food on discount price for students. I was able to get cheap food, including fruits and vegetables.

The people in Wrocław are already familiar with students, so they were friendly and welcoming to us, they find ways to render us assistance and expresses enthusiasm when I try to speak Polish with them. Talking about the language, I tried to attend polish language classes which was offered free to students, the language was far too complex for a busy mind like mine, however I was able pick up some few words like; saying my name, where I am from and other few words.

It was wonderful experience living in the city of d Wrocław, despite the Covid19 pandemic I had a great time.

## Conclusion

From classroom studies to virtual lectures hybrid learning as it was termed, even with the restriction due to Covid19 pandemic life in Wrocław is unforgettable. I developed socially, culturally and most importantly academically. I had the opportunity to improve my GIS skills and learnt how to use AutoCAD with a yearlong accessibility of the software. I also made new friends and expanded my social networks. In general, I am looking forward to having another opportunity to visit and study in the city.