

## **Switzerland, Geneva, Université de Genève, Environmental and Resource Management, 6<sup>th</sup> semester**

I already heard a lot about Erasmus before I even had the possibility to go to another country to study with Erasmus. I was fascinated to have such an experience as I mostly heard positive, exciting, also stressful and difficult but in the end all joyful stories.

My choice to apply for an Erasmus mobility build up due to two main reasons: firstly I wanted to study one semester abroad in a French speaking country because I stopped taking French lessons rather early in school but I always had the feeling of regret in doing so. Secondly I liked the idea of staying in Europe. In the end, going to a French-speaking country was my motivation and inspiration of finally learning French.

The application to the University of Geneva was clear and next to a CV, I had to write a letter of motivation. Further to this, I applied for a three weeks language course in August. The classes were held in French which was quite difficult in the beginning but after one semester I got used to the language and was able to follow the classes more or less easily. Unfortunately I was not allowed to take master courses as I am on the bachelor level.

It is very difficult to find a room in Geneva, however, I was able to find one before I arrived in Geneva. After one semester I moved to the student housing.

My Erasmus experience turned out to be better than expected due to many reasons.

I met awesome people of who I can call some very close friends now. It is so much fun to meet in a group of a “little Europe”, have cultural and also linguistic problems but which in the end turn out to be very funny as well as they teach you something about the other country. This is also one important point that makes an Erasmus experience very special.

Furthermore, in class and on excursions I got to know people from Geneva, which made me not only practice my French but also did I get involved in a group other than the international group.

Also the professors and especially the international office were very nice, helpful and supported me whenever I had a problem or questions.

Finally, I tried to make the best out of every situation and tried to solve every problem, challenge or drawback with a positive attitude.

I arrived one month earlier in Geneva in order to attend a French language course, during which time I already made new friends and also found some people that were going to study with Erasmus at the University of Geneva. Thus, even before the official semester started I met other Erasmus-people. During my stay I joined the group of Erasmus Students Network (ESN) who organized every now and then trips around Switzerland. This was a good occasion in order to not only meet other Erasmus people from all over Switzerland but also to discover Swiss cities, its countryside, cheese, chocolate and sports like skiing.

I liked Geneva, the university, the ESN-trips and all the people I met so much that I decided to stay another semester. This, in fact, was not a problem in the point of view of the Erasmus regulations and both my sending and my host university. However, I also wanted to finish my bachelor within this semester, which meant that I had to write a bachelor thesis. Thus I was searching for a project in Geneva which turned out to be rather difficult and I got many letters of refusal because often the professors were willing to take me as a bachelor thesis student but couldn't offer a suitable project. Still I couldn't give up on this idea and finally I found a professor who suggested me an interesting project. After weeks of not being sure whether the plan of staying will turn out to be successful I managed to stay in Geneva for the second semester.