



Relazione di fine scambio

Scuola del Design

Istruzioni

Indicare di seguito tutte le informazioni che possano essere utili ad altri studenti che parteciperanno a uno scambio. Preferibilmente in lingua inglese, lunghezza min. 2500 parole + possibili immagini, file di max. dimensione 2 MB in formato PDF. Questo documento sarà pubblicato nel sito web della Scuola.

Informazioni generiche

Anno Accademico di Scambio:	2019-20	Nome della Sede in scambio:	UNIVERZA V LJUBLJANI
Cognome e Nome:	Guglielmetti Federico	Stato:	Slovenia
Matricola:	915588	Codice Sede:	SI LJUBLJA01
Corso di Studio:	Design della comunicazione	Tipo di scambio: (Semplice o Doppia Laurea)	Semplice
Anno di Corso:	II Magistrale	Semestre di Scambio:	Secondo
Email:	maxxipape@gmail.com	Docente Promotore:	Giuseppe Amoroso

Racconta la tua esperienza di scambio:

To speak about my experience we need a little bit of context. Ljubljana was not my first choice: I put Slovenia in the list of possible destinations because is close to Italy and, honestly, I thought was an intriguing country. Before my arrival, I already knew that the lessons in my faculty were not in English and at the beginning, it was a little bit difficult to follow but then, also thanks to my colleagues, it was way better. I have to specify that I was in the Academy of Fine Arts and Design and, in the other faculties, English was the main language. Here in Slovenia, I attended four courses (26 ECTS): Photography, the main subject, Drawing and painting, Interaction Design and Development and theory of design, a theoretical subject based on research. Briefly, Drawing and painting was a great choice, even I haven't such a great talent in that field. The professor is very kind and prepared and he lets you free in the output of the course. I really recommend that subject. Interaction design, instead, was very similar to the course I had here in Politecnico. I had to develop the user experience for a mobile application and a landing page. I had fun choosing the laundry as the topic of my work and I think they could be useful even in the "real life". The last elective course was Development and theory of design: this course required research and writing skills. We had to write a paper about the elements that we find in airports such as terminals, signs and safety cards. I choose to explore the different typefaces and the sign system, was a quite interesting work. Finally, there was the main course, photography. It can be compared with a "laboratory" in Italy and, more or less, the amount of work is quite the same. We had weekly delivery, including some technical exercises and writing some thoughts about the previous lesson, and the individual project. It was difficult to manage everything but, in the end, I was happy about the result of what I did. I have to say that studying in an academy makes you see things from another perspective, maybe because they focus more on the artistic aspect instead of the utility or even the shape of the work. There were also theoretical notions but they were more related to philosophy or psychology, and this is a thing that really open my mind. Moreover, I think that the method is quite different and less suitable for the team-work: in fact, only one of four subjects involved group works (a part photography collective exhibition), but it's not bad at all, I liked to work here. Even with this Covid-19 situation, the school was ready and almost immediately it activated distance learning. This system helped me because I could have a more direct

relationship with my professors, speaking individually with them in English instead of waiting for the end of the lesson. I think that University of Ljubljana was a good choice, the level of teaching is high and being a student here in Slovenia was worth. A part stuffs connected to ESN, every student has access to the subsidized student meals system, also called "Boni", that is fantastic. It's not only a simple discount, it an entire world. There's an impressive list of restaurant that uses this system and for like 3 or 4 euros, you can eat a complete meal composed of one main dish, salad, fruits and water. Also, there are some places where, using this "Boni", you can eat for free and we could use this discount even on food delivery. A trick that can be used is to take with you a little box (es. Tupperware) to save the salad to have a free dinner. There a lot of different typical cuisine to try (like Chinese, Mexican..), even with vegetarian and vegan dishes. But since the Boni system closes before 21 (even 20.30, it depends on the place), sometimes you'll have to cook. I had no problem to find everything I needed and it's usual to find discounts on food close to expiring and that's perfect for last-minute ideas. Ljubljana is a capital city and the prices, according to Slovenian people, are a little bit above the average but I think it is still cheaper than Italy. As I understood, Balkan food is quite popular and you'll find a lot of types of sausages and salami: Čevapčići are very good especially with Ajvar, a typical sauce made by peppers. In Slovenia is also common to drink tap water so you can avoid to buy it at the supermarket even if Radenska, the national mineral water, is famous in all the world.

Another important point that I could review is the housing. My advice is to apply as soon as possible to the student dorms for at least three reasons:

- 1) The prize is quite cheap, I paid around 200€/month and I was in Rozna Dolina dorm that it's pretty decent, you can check pics on the web.
- 2) Here you can meet tons of people from all over the world and get into the "Erasmus life" faster
- 3) Normally they're positioned near faculties and/or strategic places. I was 15 minutes far from the centre walking.

Speaking with local people, I discovered that the average cost of the rent is rising, and, like in every field, you have to be lucky with the accommodation. On the other hand, I have to say that I knew people living in a great room paying less than me so it depends.

You have to take into account that the city is quite little and you can move walking or taking the public bikes. The name of the service is BicikeLJ and there are around 60 stops where can find bikes. After paying 3€ + 1€ for the card, you can take them for one year. You'll pay only if you keep the bike for more than one hour but it's very unusual. By the way, public transport is very efficient and connect most of the interesting part of the city. Also, for me that I came from Italy, taxis are quite cheap and they're a good alternative if you want to go home without cycling. Keep in mind that you can find everything in the centre a part for big supermarkets and BTC, the biggest shopping district in the city. Here you will find everything you need from furniture to sport clothes. Most of the shops have good discounts so don't worry about the prices.

Slovenia is a small but beautiful country and from Ljubljana, you can visit a lot of nice places driving one or two hours. Rent a car is the best solution you can choose because it's quite cheap and you don't pay the highway (There's the toll stickers and the car they give you has it). I suggest to visit the two famous lakes: Bled and Bohinj. The first one is more touristic with nice and romantic city (with a Boni restaurant) while the other is wilder. In Bohinj you can swim or rent a board to explore the lake, there are some equipped spaces to rent them. If you like the mountain there's the symbol of the country, the Triglav. It's a huge mountain and if you feel brave enough you can go to the top. I didn't go personally, but people told me that is pretty nice. Slovenia is rich in park and green area, Soča Valley is an example and is very good. Here you can explore and enjoy the nature. Also you can find a lot of excursions and different paths around the country. If you're like me and you love the sea, there is even a little coast (around 50km) where you can find nice places to swim. I went to Moon Bay, a beach near Portorož (Portorose) where the water is very good, even if is Adriatic sea. You'll arrive there after a short (10-15' max) but very panoramic walk in which, if the day is sunny enough, you can even see the Italian coast. I know that now maybe is not the perfect time to travel but the Balcanic area is full of beautiful spots. Luckily I managed to spend a weekend in Croatia that is an amazing county. The sea is beautiful and the road near the coast is very suggestive. It's crazy how the sea and mountains can be so close and so nice. In Croatia, we went to Rovinj (Rovigno), a city with a nice old town, very characteristic and Plitvice lakes, a series of lakes near the Bosnian border. This last place is amazing and the view is stunning thanks to an untouched natural environment mixed perfectly with some wooden paths that allow you to walk near and in the lakes. I have to say that, here in this country, you can find your place between green areas, sea and beautiful cities (es. Zadar, Dubrovnik, Split).



Now that you know more about the country and the school I can explain why you should do the Erasmus experience. Contrary to common belief, these months were not a holiday. I mean, yes I had a lot of fun but mainly I went abroad to challenge myself and live outside my "safe zone". Normally when people explain this period they speak about parties or travels but there's more. You should apply for infinite reasons. For example, in Slovenia I improved my English and, thanks to people in the dorms, I learned a bit Spanish and Català. You can also learn a lot from the host country about history, art and everything else. But of course, people are the main reason to go on Erasmus. You'll meet new students from every part of the world, sharing opinions and knowing better their culture and their habits. During this experience, I had very good moments and, "thanks" to Coronavirus epidemic, I had a very close relationship with my flatmates. Now we're keeping in touch and maybe we'll see each other again. That's a good point: at the end, you'll have a lot of friends spread all over the world. I knew a lot of people in Ljubljana but I hope I'll remember them all (I hope they'll do it too) because everyone gave something to me: you can learn or discover something new from anyone. Being a foreign student allows you to see things from another perspective, opening your mind and also making you think about some prejudices that I had before going.

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