

Erasmus Report: Aristotle University, Thessaloniki

Initially before officially agreeing to go for my Erasmus to Greece, I was not sure how it would personally and professionally pan out for me. Luckily, our program coordinator, Mr. Ioannis Revolidis, who happens to be from Thessaloniki, convinced us that Greece would be a lifetime changing experience for all of us. And he proved to be correct.

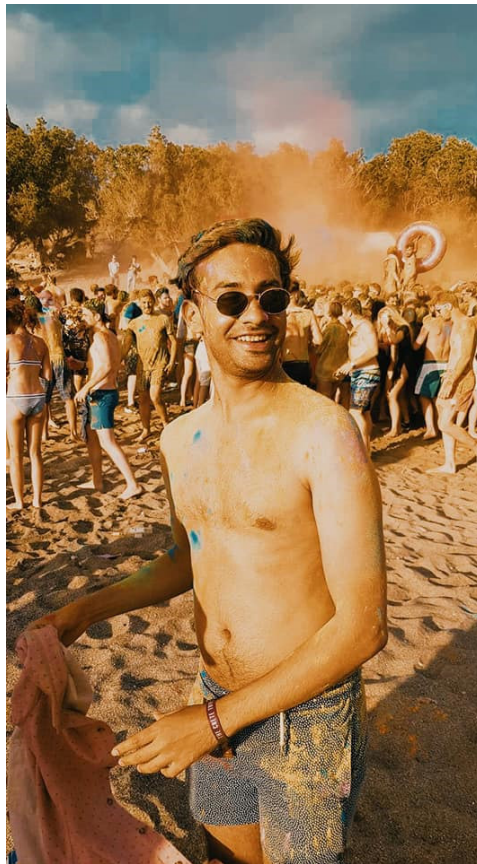


After getting my learning agreement signed from the partner University, I had to focus on my travel plans. Coming from a non-EU country, India, I had to first apply for a student visa, despite having a residence permit until the end of 2020 in Germany. This is because non-EU students are not allowed to stay for more than 3 months in another EU country without visa permission. We had to make an appointment with the Greek consulate in Stuttgart (which has the sole jurisdiction of dealing in matters related to study exchanges). The entire process went quite flawlessly and the officials were quite helpful.

Once I made it to Thessaloniki, the ESN (Erasmus Student Network) gave us a warm welcome and helped us with the technical procedures to get registered. I was assigned a student buddy to help me out and we also went on to become great friends. Our classes began and went on quite smoothly. The subjects I took were Cybercrime, Sociology of law and European Human rights. The lecturer of Sociology of law most notably, Ms. Aspasia, was

especially a standout Professor for all the students. Her lecturers even attracted students from other courses to attend her class, because her teaching methodology stood out. The exams ranged from oral exams to written exams and were fairly easy to give. I managed to clear the semester with all the desired 15 credits.

Besides academics, there was a lot of activity with the ESN group. I helped them in conducting an anti-racism workshop and participated in many cleanliness drives and trips to places around Greece (like Meteora, Lake Kerkini, Serres and Kavala). The most notable trip was the 5 day student trip to the island of Crete, which was a lifetime experience. Besides that, my entire family came to visit me and we went to the islands of Paros and Anti-Paros which are one of the most beautiful places on the planet. I also went on to direct, act and produce a movie with the ESN Theatre Group called Hannah, which is currently in the



process of production.



Everything went perfectly during my time. I did not have trouble finding accommodation at all, and it was fairly cheap compared to prices in Germany. The University food was free for students every day, so we saved up a lot to go and eat at tavernas once a week (which was also inexpensive and delicious). The locals were warm and extremely hospitable, the weather was fantastic throughout, the beaches were nearby and we could easily get by in English. We eventually formed a group of more than 20-30 friends and shared lifetime memories together. I would highly recommend Thessaloniki as an Erasmus city to go to, due to the low cost, friendly people, great weather, great food, beautiful islands and forming an amazing network of friends.

