

REPORT

Planning for studying abroad has been started in October 2018 while I was at home university. Procedure requires choosing one of several Universities where second semester can take place. As the application process starts together with application process for the Leibniz University the necessary steps had been known even before October. During October and November I sent application form and required documents to Aristotle University in Thessaloniki. As I have passed language test and as my application has been accepted I got the Acceptance letter. Afterwards all I have to do was a paper work.

As a citizen of the country which is not member of the EU I had to apply for student visa. Luckily not many people apply for Greek visa in Serbia so I was able to go through the process easily. As a Erasmus student I didn't have to proof that I have enough money to support myself but I had to hand over medical examination report which proves that I am not contagious and therefore can enter Greece. This equipment was rather senseless and backward and even humiliating having in mind that Serbia is on white Schengen list and that we can travel without permission. But this is still reminiscence which has to be followed. Besides that medical insurance and visa application fee have to be paid. The visa has been issued in the same day and I was ready to go.

As Greece is quite close to Serbia and as lot of Serbs live there finding accommodation was difficult. My classmate has a cousin in Thessaloniki who found for us accommodation in Thessaloniki in few days. We got a beautiful apartment in the nice area of the city.

Aristotle University is organization for itself which has to be understood. Once when you get that getting around is not problem. Registration comes first, Confirmation of stay has to be hand over in the first day of arrival so the duration of stay can be properly recorded. Also, chosen courses can be changed within first month of stay but change to learning agreement has to be signed. This procedure is quite common because students change their mind once when they got at University.

I was surprised to learn that all courses I have chosen as well as all other courses for Erasmus students were actually courses for undergraduate students even though all of us were postgraduate students. So the courses were demanding, I would rather say that courses were somehow low key. Depending of the professor one could have upgrade knowledge if interest was shown.

While I was there I spent most of the time preparing and writing my Thesis so I didn't spent much of time hanging around with my fellow colleagues. But as far as I noticed when you are 20ish years old and there, you going to have a lot of fun. I have heard that student parties are regular on both week and weekend days. Also, everybody can get study buddy to support them in social life once they are there.

Greeks have a lot of holidays. First strikes right after arrival, in the beginning of March and it takes around a week. Have in mind that first working day after a holiday in Greece is usually day off. It a public secret and nobody would tell you that but it works like that. Besides that holiday during the Easter and 1st of May takes three weeks! And nothing works, no University stuff is there. So if you want to check out the cost or go back home to see your family or friends that just about right time.

Exams can be in the form of essay, written exams or oral exams. Sometimes you can even chose different form. I chose exams in the form of essay so I started working on my exams one month prior June which is an exam month. Modest research follows exams and I had to defend one of three essay exams and other I passed without defending them.

And finally, check out procedure. Once when you are done with exams you have to take a confirmation from library that you didn't borrow any book and to take hand it over to Erasmus office. Besides that you going to need to have your confirmation of stay which will be filled in once when you say when you will be leaving. First of July is the last day when you can check out, even though you can take over your documents later on if you are late for some reason.