

My Erasmus semester in Thessaloniki

When I was applying for my Master programme at the Leibniz University, there was a field about where do we want to go abroad on our second semester that was obligatory to fulfill. We had around 12 different places to choose, 12 different countries and cultures. When I saw that Thessaloniki is one of the choices, I didn't even think twice to put it on my list as a first choice. It was not because I have never been there and I wanted to visit Greece so badly. But the opposite, I actually live 130km from Thessaloniki, and I have spent nearly all my summer weekends there with my friends, living the holiday spirit. So, it was not a new experience for me, even though living there is much more different than spending just a few days.

When the semester was over in Hannover, we started preparing ourselves for our semester abroad. I can't say that it was really easy to prepare, because I wasn't ready to move in another country and alone. But there is also something positive here, because I wasn't actually alone, I had my five other colleagues from Leibniz spending their second semester in Thessaloniki too. It was a bit hard to find an apartment there, because we were mostly searching on Internet, and the worst part was that you can't just go there and see the place that has been offered to you. So, it was a risk, because we sent money in advance to our future landlord without even meeting him or seeing the place. My flat mates were actually my two female colleagues from Leibniz. But in the end, everything was perfectly fine with the apartment, and we were very happy that it wasn't a fraud.

Our semester began a bit late, in the beginning of March, so I decided to move there a few days before the courses start. The girls were there a month earlier than me.

I must admit that we had plenty of free time, because we had only 3 courses and of course 3 lectures per week, which was perfect for us. The courses were specifically for Erasmus students, so we were about twenty students per lecture from all over the world. The courses I chose were quite interesting and I really enjoyed the lectures.

We were spending our free time mostly on the sea side, it was our favorite place. We also went shopping in the malls, and we were eating gyros very often! My friends were visiting me really often, and also my family. I was on a one day trip to Meteora and that trip really left me with breathtaking views and moments.

When the summer started, actually in Thessaloniki started even earlier, because it is a Mediterranean climate, we were going to the beach, and I even went there just to study, because I had no motivation at home.

We went to parties also. Every Wednesday Erasmus people were organizing an Erasmus party, every week with different topic of the party.

I also had some bad experience, I must say. There was some older man, who was watching at my room window really often, and some of the neighbors even warned me about him. One night, he even knocked on my window twice at midnight, and I really got scared. But nothing else happened, so it was just a couple of times that this man got me freaked out.

Summa summarum, I really enjoyed my three months living in Thessaloniki and now I am really thankful to Leibniz University and the Erasmus + programme for giving me this opportunity, because I must admit at the beginning of all this I was a bit skeptical. But in the end, everything came out perfect, with exception of the stalking experience I had, but I'll try to neglect it so I will remember only the good days of my Thessaloniki life.

Now, I'll show you some moments of my semester in Thessaloniki.



