



NEO ALBANIA
National Erasmus+ Office of Albania

Porto, new reality for personal development

Student: Gjergji QOSJA

Home Institution: University "Fan S. Noli" Korçë .

E+ Programme: Erasmus Mundus GreenTech Western Balkans

Host Institution: University of Porto

Period: September 2017- July 2018

My Journey towards Erasmus in Porto

My name is Gjergji Qosja. I am currently in the second year of my scientific master studies in "Social Philosophy" at the "Fan S. Noli" University of Korçë. I was an Erasmus student for 2 semesters in University of Porto, Portugal, from September 2017 to July 2018.

I heard about the program, in 2015 when I was on the first year of undergraduate studies in History and Geography, during a presentation made by members of the Center of Career and Alumni of the university. In the presentation they mentioned a program called: Erasmus Mundus GreenTech Western Balkans.

I applied in the following year, in the call of autumn 2017, for my third year of undergraduate studies in History. I decided to apply to the University of Porto, it was my only option to go and try to experience something new.

The required documents for application were: a motivation letter, a recommendation letter from a professor, CV, valid passport, Knowledge English certificate, and Learning Agreement. The Learning Agreement document, I prepared with the help of my professor.

After I got selected for the scholarship, the International Relations Office of University of Porto sent me guidelines about my stay in Porto, University of Porto yearly activities, documents about the Visa application and a list of accommodation places in the city.

My scholarship was for 2 semesters, from September 2017 to July 2018. The scholarship value was 1000 euro per month.

Being a student of FLUP



Just before the start of the new academic year in the Faculty of Arts of University of Porto (FLUP), the International Relations Office of the Faculty organized a tour of the facilities of the faculty for the international students. Furthermore, they had assigned Portuguese students to check if we required help with our time in the faculty and classes.

Even though the official language for the courses was Portuguese, the professors often organized classes in English, and almost all the materials that were part of the lessons had references in English. Also the Faculty offered free courses in Portuguese language for foreign students that do not know the language.

I did not experience difficulties or loss of the academic year when I returned in Albania. The transcription of grades that I got in the classes in University of Porto were converted to the Albanian equivalents, without any problems.

O meu Porto, o Cidade Invicta (My Porto, The Unvanquished City)



Porto is an amazing city full of culture and beautiful places to see. The city was named as the best destination of 2017. In fact, it fascinates you from the first moment and you fall in love with it. The lifestyle in Porto is very good too. You can relax in the weekend and enjoy the city, because in Porto there is always something to see and do.

If you go out for a walk, you can discover amazing places. If you walk through the streets you can discover characteristic and particular details on each house.

Living in Porto is cheaper than other European cities. The sum from my scholarship was more than enough to cover my living costs, as well as, it allowed me to see other cities in Portugal and in the neighboring Spain.

I lived in a students residence which was 10 minutes walking distance to my faculty (Faculty of Letters) and 15 minutes from the city center, Avenida dos Aliados.



The food was delicious and cheap. I want to recommend some nice dishes: Francesinha, Pataniscas de bacalhau, Bifana, Pastéis de Nata, and so on. Also Vinho to Porto (Porto wine) is something that should not be left untried.



The nightlife is good in Porto. Often I would hear that life in Porto begins after 9 in the evening. There are a lot of pubs that are always full of Erasmus students especially in the pubs near Reitoria (the rectory of the University of Porto). The most famous pub is "Cafe Piolho D'Ouro".



If you are planning to become an Erasmus student, I want to recommend you Porto. This city is perfect for an international student. The university and the organization of the city is good. Portuguese people are very friendly and the city is beautiful.

Antiga, Mui Nobre, Sempre Leal e Invicta

(Old, Most Noble, Always Loyal and Unvanquished)