

## ERASMUS-Erfahrungsbericht

Persönliche Angaben			
Name:		Vorname:	
E-Mail-Adresse			
Gastland	Estland		
Gasthochschule	University of Tallinn		
Aufenthalt	von:	August 16	bis: Dezember 16

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Estonia seemed to be divided in two different parts: modern Estonia with the cities Tallinn and Tartu and traditional Estonia consisting of smaller cities and the rural parts of the country. I have no experiences about the modernization of rather rural parts of Estonia like in the South; anyway I have some impressions of being a young European in a modern capital like Tallinn.

Tallinn's landscape is created by modern buildings, some skyscrapers and fashionable residential houses near the harbour and the coast. In many places you can find the names of international companies located or established in Estonia and you can hear languages from different places all over the world spoken in the city. The Estonian government and law make it easy for non-Estonians to get an Estonian ID card and to register a start up company via internet. These clever regulations make Estonia very attractive for many businessmen.

Young Estonians wear hip clothes and pelt with a city scooter from one place to another. Every week special events keep the Estonians busy like the Estonian Fashion Week or PÖFF. But not only the people are modern and hip, even the food and restaurants are in vogue. It's possible to eat Vietnamese food in an old towing vehicle, drink cocktails on the roof of a skyscraper or enjoy sushi on the way to work. For me another very modern and cosmopolitical fact is the possibility to travel with little money to many other European countries. Even young people could gain experiences of other cultures and places while travelling from Tallinn. Moreover the different Universities and private schools arrange trips abroad. They give young people the chance to be a world traveller. On the other hand the universities offer a very good variety of educations and courses for students. Even the Estonian Business School has a really great reputation about their lecturers from all over the

world, their international economic courses combined with many group works and business games.

Everything seems to grow to a modern and futurism city as a strong part of Europe, but for me the most likeable part of Estonians modern culture is the fact that the Estonians don't forget their roots. There are so many traditions, rituals and historical experiences which are not hidden. Estonia doesn't want to forget his historical part which made the country like it is now. You can still see the many monuments, museums and parks with statues of famous people.

Moreover the singing tradition is recognizable everywhere. At Rataskaevu 16 young people with lovely voices sing birthday songs for you, there are music festivals for free at Vabaduse Väljak or the *üldlaulupidu* is as important today as in the history of the country. Even nowadays Estonians join a choir or play an instrument in an orchestra. However, the opera and theatre is showing modern and traditional performances which are enjoyable for every age.

The modern Estonian culture doesn't turn his back on his history; it combines all aspects with each other. For me this is the most impressive experience of my semester abroad.