

Erasmus+ Erfahrungsbericht

Persönliche Angaben			
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Bericht:

I am a student of English and American Studies at TU Chemnitz. Originally, I am from Romania, but I moved in 2004 to Austria and in 2012 to Germany. Between 21th of September and 26th of January I had the opportunity to complete a semester abroad at the University of Ulster, Northern Ireland. This experience brought to me new friends from all over the world, life-changing perspectives, important academic gains, as well as it has contributed to my personal development.

I shared the flat with another two girls, Northern Irish, Southern Irish, and Spanish, so I had the pleasure to hear different accents and learn to distinguish between them. This has also given me the possibility to observe different customs of different cultures and the ways they interact with each other. I have also participated to some events organized by the group International Friends which gave me the opportunity to do some sightseeing and meet new interesting people.

The University itself is very modern and, through its facilities, offers many possibilities for self-study or group study. The library is another enchanting place with thousands of books and well-arranged tables for study. The classes are small and excellent for an optimal instructional experience. My courses of choice were Writing Matters, Journalism&Society, and Writing&Publishing. Although Journalism&Society was an interesting course to attend to, it had requirements that were hard to fulfill for an Erasmus student who had not attended the previous journalism classes offered at Ulster. Therefore, I would recommend that Level 7 courses should be avoided, as the instructional experience of an Erasmus student is anyway more difficult than that of a regular student. However, I enjoyed very much the other two courses. Especially, the Writing&Publishing course has brought enormous academic and personal gains to me. I haven't written any poems since 2003, but because it was a requirement

of this course to produce an original creative work, I had to start to write poems again. I continued to write even after returning to Chemnitz and will continue to do so because this means to me more than good feedback in a course, rather that I have found myself again.

All in all, my semester abroad in Coleraine, Northern Ireland was a positive experience. I would gladly return there if only to visit the nine second-hand bookstores spread all over that small town, or to listen again to the waves in Portrush.