

Dobrodošli v Sloveniji



Report about my Erasmus exchange semester in
Slovenia

Summer semester 2019

School of Economics and Business - Univerza v Ljubljani

First steps before going abroad

My name is Marília Santana, I study International Business B.A. and I've always been fascinated about experiences abroad. In the middle of my 3rd semester I realized how easy it actually is to apply for an Erasmus+ scholarship at our university. I decided by then to get in touch with the International Office and show my interest in going on an exchange.

There were two things I knew before planning my exchange semester: I wanted to go during the summer semester and it must be somewhere in eastern Europe. As the 4th semester would start in few months, my last possibility would be to go abroad on my 6th and last semester of studies (and that is what I did!).

After deciding when I was going, I had to choose a destination. For that, I had a look at the list of partner universities and selected the ones in the following countries: Czech

Republic, Croatia, Romania and Slovenia. I've checked not only the universities, but also the cities and the availability of courses in English. Since it was my last semester of studies, I didn't have a lot of open courses from the base curriculum. In this sense, I needed to go somewhere where it was possible to study specific subjects in English.

It turned out that the University of Ljubljana was the only one offering courses that would match the modules I needed before starting my bachelor thesis. The more information I searched about Slovenia, the more I was enjoying the idea of living there for some months.

Preparation

I followed the [step-by-step guide](#) from the International Office to keep the organization through the whole bureaucracy. After applying in Nordhausen, having my learning agreement signed and being nominated as an Erasmus+ student I applied at the School of Business and Economics (SEB) of the Faculty of Ljubljana. From this point on, you will have to follow the steps and deadlines that the SEB's International Office will send to you (this means **always check your e-mails!**)



Accommodation

Compared to Germany it was quite hard to find accommodation in Ljubljana. When applying to the university there, you can choose if you prioritize to stay in the student's dorms or private accommodation.

There are different types of dorms offered by the university. In some of them there are real apartments for 4 students with 2 rooms, kitchen and bathroom. The other type of room is a big building full of rooms. In this case you will also share a room, but the kitchen and the bathroom will be shared with all others in your room. If you don't mind sharing a room, the student dorms might be a good option for you. It is really easy to meet new people there and it is the cheapest accommodation in town (approx. 130 -180 Euro/ month).

I've chosen private accommodation, because I wasn't willing to share a room. But I didn't know it would be hard to find! I was checking every real state website, but they were mostly in Slovene, not up to date, and offering whole apartments and not only a room in a shared flat. Finally, I found my accommodation through a Facebook group. So, if you also prefer private accommodation, access every "Erasmus Ljubljana" group on Facebook and keep in touch with your tutor!

Don't get desperate if you are about to go abroad and still don't have an accommodation. You won't be the only one! I know some students that spent the first nights in a hostel and then found a nice place to call home. 😊

Studying at the School of Business and Economics (SEB)

My impressions of SEB were always the best ones. From the application process until the day I got my "Letter of Confirmation" signed, I've considered the institution very organized and transparent.

Before arriving in Ljubljana, I've received A LOT of information via e-mail! This was a blessing, because I could "plan" my semester from home. I knew even the exact dates of the final exams, this was very helpful in order to plan some trips or visits from friends and family.

It was also interesting to see that we could only register for an exam, after filling up a survey about the lecture, the professor and the teaching methods. This shows that the institution is continuously looking for improvement. Furthermore, I considered SEB as truly international and prepared to welcome international students.

The teaching methods are quite different than in Germany. For each course, I had lectures and seminars. The lectures were focused on the theory, while seminars on exercises and practical examples. All courses had midterm exams and/or projects that were part of the final grade together with the final examination.

Subsidized meals (“Boni”)

Students in Slovenia have the right to subsidized food! This means that you have different places (restaurants, fast food, Cafés etc.) all over Ljubljana and other cities in Slovenia where you can have student meals by using so called coupons or “boni”. Every month we received coupons (Boni), which we could use for student meals. The amount depends on the number of working days in the month. We could use 2 coupons per day within 4 hours of difference, between 8 A.M. and 9 P.M.

The “classic” student offered was composed by salad, soup, main course, fruit and water! As a student you could enjoy a lot of different restaurants in the city and have some fancy meals (thanks to the student Boni) for not more than 5€! We could choose among different restaurants, from Mexican, Thai, Chinese food and so on.

Slovenia and Slovenians

Before going to Slovenia I didn’t know much about the country. I knew it was a member of the former Yugoslavia, that it has stunning landscapes and that the nice beaches from Croatia were not far away.

People in Slovenia are quite reserved and respect other people’s personal space. But they are very kind, friendly and do what they can to help you. I never had a problem, because I couldn’t speak Slovenian. Most people speak English very well and if they don’t they will try their best to understand what you need.

After living there for a few months, I consider Slovenia to be a very safe country, full of natural beauty and with an unique identity and well differentiated from other Balkan countries.

Some places you **must** visit while in Slovenia are:

- The lakes Bled and Bohinj
- Soča Valley
- Piran, Portorož, Izola and the Moonbay (Strunjan)
- Vintgar Gorge
- Triglav National Park

Transportation

Ljubljana is not as big city compared to other metropolises and capital cities. There are many ways to travel around Ljubljana. I would say the best one is by bike, because of the numerous public bike rental stations throughout the city and also because buying a second hand bike can be very cheap.

If you are not into biking around, the public buses might be interesting for you. The government provides subsidy for public transport for every student, domestic and foreign. You will get more information about it during the “Welcome Days”. The transportation card for students costs 20€/month and you can ride the bus as much as you want.

Taxi rides are also very cheap! But make sure to order it previously, if you order it spontaneously on the street it might cost you A LOT more than the real prices. Make sure to download “Cammeo” and “Taxi Laguna”, they show you in advance how much the ride will cost.

I arrived in Ljubljana by plane and the airport is quite far from the city. I went by taxi to my accommodation and it was a mistake, since I didn’t know about this “pre-order” thing, I ended up paying 60€ for the ride!!! After that I found out that the best way to go from the airport to the city was with shuttle service called GoOpti. You can book online and it costs around 10€/ride.

You can’t miss this:

- Ice cream at Vigo
- Use your special discounts as an Erasmus student and rent a car with your friends to explore the mountains, caves and the Slovenian seaside
- Try Union unfiltered beer
- Party at Metelkova
- Eat a Burek for free with your Boni coupon
- Go for a coffee at Nebotičnik Skyscraper
- Ride a bicycle through Ljubljana
- Day trips to Venice, Trieste and Zagreb
- Picnic at Tivoli Park



Declaration of consent: I agree that the report will be made available to other HSN students and, if necessary, will be published on the HSN website.

Nordhausen, 25th October 2019

Marília Santana

