



## Exchange student essay

Going out or staying is an everlasting question that is hanging over the heads of most students in our country, which is inevitable, testifying to the general economic, social and political chaos that governs in this country. Such a question started to follow me, and eventually turned into a challenge that I decided to accept, and ultimately, successfully.

The beauty of an exchange is to indicate a unique opportunity with a certain duration, i.e. the ability to taste life in the EU countries, after which you could have made a decision to want to go outside, or to give up the idea. But in one and the other case, it's hardly conceivable that anyone can be sorry for leaving. Going to the exchange is something I started thinking about from the first year of college, attending a presentation, for then distant and unfamiliar exchange programs available to us students. But there have always been some obstacles - I do not have enough extracurricular activities, enough time, too much risk of not giving up exams, etc., so I've always dumped it because I was waiting for better opportunities. Meanwhile, I was working on improving my CV, working on professional non-formal training and education, which helped me understand the application process much more than I would understand as a "beginner" student and increase competitiveness. Also, one of the requirements of the application is certainly the Certificate of Knowledge of English at least C1, i.e. IELTS, TOEFL or some other acknowledged certificate, which requires a certain time of preparation, placement, and payment. In my luck, my university did not look for such a certificate.

However, what is essentially the exchange itself is certainly not an application, and the pangs around it are definitely oblivious to the first day of the exchange. Departing, living, and studying outside is the ultimate goal, worthy of every effort, confusion, care about accommodation, food, distressing worried parents, psychological preparations for catapulting into independent life, paperwork and even more paperwork.

My trip started at the end of September, with only two boxes, written instructions with addresses and everything I need to do the first day after my arrival to the coordinator for the coming exchange students. Though the first thing looked great new and terrible, but after the first days of getting to know this mess, singers from Singapore and Morocco, getting my exchange buddy who has the role of student guide through life, this town has become my second home.



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The fast pace of life, the necessity of planning at least two hours in advance, the fast pace, the 15-minute coffee, the sushi-to-take, the Japanese, Chinese, Thai way, the 100 ways pasta - all this quickly became my daily life.

This unpredictable everyday life, every day that always has some other excitement, a mountain of different events you have the opportunity to visit, and new people, other exchange students coming from all European countries but also the US, South America, Asia, Africa, my life countless with small colorful dimensions, Swedish sauces, Lithuanian liqueurs and green tea, Swiss chocolates, Polish vodka, Portuguese dishes, French wines, Spanish charm, Scottish specialty, Korean wondrousness, Romanian folklore and of course Italian warmth and temperament, making it one positive side of the exchange. The second positive side of exchange is certainly education.

The concept of higher education, which is completely different from the concept of the same education in my country, is something that is equally delightful to me as all the people I met. A concept that is based on the independent work of a student, where critical thinking and ability to solve the problem are assessed, not the ability to remember definitions and enumeration. Each subject is divided into multiple grades of assessment - student presentation work that needs to be exhaustive, long, visually tailored and accompanied by well-trained performances; Student papers, which must consist of 10,000 words at a minimum, on the topic, attendance of the classroom through discussion and review of court decisions, laws and the like, and ultimately solving the case - this was the case of gender discrimination, solving the border dispute between the two countries, a violation of the EU competition rules. Such an approach focused on developing critical thinking on the basis of comparisons between different national legislations, court decisions of different instances is something that really prepares a student for dealing with a legal profession in the future rather than blindly dogmatic monitoring of pre-set definitions, theories, laws, definitions, descriptions, enumerations, which in the end, students do not prepare for much, except for formal vocation. I do not even have to mention how much the internationality of a university is valued, and very often are organized seminars with guests such as Nobel Laureates, Skype lectures with Harvard professors, New York University, Columbia University and others.



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Also, what I find interesting is the dedication of the University student, where each student gets their own official mail at the university domain, access to the registration and application websites, and a unique web platform where all the exam materials, student papers, available for download. Most of the professors encourage students to try out more grades, answer all mails promptly and extensively, while their assistants only "assist" in delivering lectures and organizing schedules, and informing students when the professor is on holiday or on an official journey. It has a university ID, which includes the name, family name and student code, and items such as the index and the professor's signature obligations are something that has not been used for decades.

In addition, a special service has been organized to help all graduates write resumes, rewrite them, etc. In sum, the average student in my country is heavily loaded with many things, from material existence, fear of becoming unemployed at the end of studies, lack of practical knowledge, the frustrations of an unfair system of appraisal, the presence of bribes and corruption, and yet, it does manage most of the time by drinking coffee, probably as some kind of response to stress and pressure that is present not only in student life. Such concerns here cannot say that they do not exist but are at a level that does not affect the quality of student life, that is, they are on a tolerant level, and while fostering competitiveness, all students who stand out for their academic and other successes are really being observed, rewarded and appreciated by the faculty, but also the society as a whole, and they do not even have to worry about work in the future as their peers in our country. Life in the home is certainly a special one, but for a longer period of time, sharing a room with Portugal, a kitchen with 30 people, a reading room with a few people, a gym and a TV hall with just a few people, is really something extraordinary. Organizing joint activities, tasting different traditional dishes, and especially sharing their culture and customs with peoples who absolutely do not know anything about Bosnia and Herzegovina, is also something of a gratifying principle, because by learning others, learning from oneself and man as a man, created to learn, grow and develop, one's life satisfaction can only be achieved when there are conditions that enable him to grow and develop.