

## QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ERASMUS STUDENTS

### ***Basic evaluation:***

*What is your impression from your Erasmus at MBU:*

- *Your expectations were/were not fulfilled – and WHY?*

My expectations were fulfilled. Basically, before to come here in Banská Bystrica I was thinking if this experience was going to be good or bad because all was unknown but once you are in dormitory and you start to do your things in Erasmus all it's normal and fun, essentially this was what I wanted.

- *Did the credits from UMB help you in your further study in your home university or were there any problems and the Erasmus really did not help you in your study – concerning the credits, subjects etc.? Describe please.*

In my case I had a problem, I am studying to be Teacher of Primary Education but I had problems to choose the subjects because subjects that MBU offers me were not about teaching, however my coordinator in Barcelona told that was fine. Once here, I had to do subjects about physics and complex maths, and I did not have experience to do it. Then I had to choose all new subjects. Finally, it has a good end.

- *Was there anything that you would have expected your university or MBU to do differently in order to help you with your further study?*

Here I have more free hours and in Barcelona I have a lot of hours. Here any class is more than 1.30 hours once a week for subject but in my university are 2 hours each class twice a week for subject. It is just different way to do because I have in UB I have 5 subject with 6 credits and here I had 8 subjects with 3 or 4 credits.

### **Before the arrival**

*How and why did you choose Matej Bel University? What influenced the decision?*

Internet, I was looking for good experience in some portal of Internet and I saw nice reviews of other Erasmus here. Finally, it is true. Also, the fact that is cheap influence me. I was looking for study in English and I knew that in Slovakia my classes were going to be in English.

*What did you know about Slovakia (Banská Bystrica) before?*

Nothing. Just that was in centre of Europe and was a good connection with other countries.

*How did you prepare for your stay in Slovakia?*

I do not like to expect. I was not thinking until come here. I was just thinking in cold and my procedures with documents.

Rubén Ortiz Vigarà

*Did you learn the basic Slovak words?*

Totally, all Erasmus have opportunity to learn Slovak Language as a subject. I was in classes and professor is very good.

### **Arrival arrangements**

*How was your arrival organized? Was there anybody to help?*

I had another problem. Any “buddy” contacts me. There was a problem because I am studying Education and MBU faculty does not have this relation with Erasmus Students that are studying in English. Then any “buddy” was selected to help this faculty. I was in faculty of Natural Science. Once here, I knew something about a conference of students of another faculty, I went there, and I met the coordinator of Erasmus Social Network (ESN). This is really useful.

*What was your first impression or shock (if you remember)?*

My problems with all subjects

All was cheap except food.

I did not think that was going to be very fun.

Drivers are mind and cars have priority to cross.

*Did somebody prepare you for the specifics/particularities of university life?*

ESN were helping me a lot. Also, between all students we support each other, especially in the beginning. In all aspects, like have internet, contact professors, choose subjects, do activities... Normally, every student have a subject.

*In which aspects and how did you get the information?*

My coordinator of faculty and another professor helped me with my well being choosing all subjects, finding me other subjects and taking it easy.

### **Orientation:**

*Which help did you get to make your orientation at the university/faculty easier?*

Having contact with all professors, doing interviews with them, contacting with your coordinator, talking with ESN. Making relations between what you must do, how and who can help you to not get lost. All professors had a good attitude to help me.

*Did somebody show you round the university or faculty or dormitory?*

The professor that my coordinator of Natural Sciences faculty assigned me.

Rubén Ortiz Vigarà

*Who explained you the administration (AIS, LMS, course requirements, communication, your university e-mail)?*

ESN

*How did the buddies work? Which help did they offer to you? Did you benefit from their help? Describe the situations.*

I did not have buddy, but ESN coordinators were very nice and they were like “my buddies”.

*How did you discover what the university offers in terms of social life, sports, study support?*

ESN and in dormitory. In the beginning we do activities and we meet each other. Also, everybody wants to meet each other and there is a proactive attitude.

*What did you discover on your own (without anybody's help)?*

How to come to the dorm (Normally, buddies do). Were to go contacting the coordinator by email. Meet ESN for chance.

*Did you learn the Slovak language? What did you like about the lesson and the way of teaching Slovak language? What did you dislike?*

I learn few things I can say little things, but lessons were fun, interesting and interactive. We talk a lot, and activities were so useful. We learnt basic things to present us.

I cannot say that I dislike nothing because I think that classes were enough interactive and we did a lot.

*What did you like about the lesson and the ways of teaching in general? What did you dislike?*

It depends because I had classes alone with the professor, with more students, and subjects that was just give a research. When I have this type of interactive and fun classes you know that you are enjoying and I feel more grateful, you are keeping your motivation and interesting in whatever type of issue.

*What are the positives and negatives of the university administration (in order to help foreigners in smooth orientation and ensuring comfort?)*

ESN it is essential to help students, they are very proactive to help everybody and share the culture.

Coordinator was also very helpful in the beginning.

I think that the problem with Faculty of Education about do not have connection with Erasmus in English is a big mistake. This is a loss of opportunity when Erasmus can learn more and also share experience with Slovak students. Also, can be more useful for their future job.

*How did you like the dormitory? Were you satisfied /dissatisfied with something?*

Rubén Ortiz Vigara

I get personal room and it is incredibly good. The only bad fact is that somebody was stealing the food of my partners. Any bad to say about my stance in dormitory.

*How do you view your stay at the university now?*

Like a great experience to learn and something of high value that I get.

### **Educational culture**

*Which educational differences did you observe? You can mention the following (add anything you consider of importance):*

- **teachers' approach to teaching foreigners,**
- **teacher's pedagogic skills, language skills, communication skills,**
- **teacher-student-relations,**
- students approach to learning and study,
- **treating foreigners,**
- **ways of teaching - forms of education – lectures, seminars, exercises, supporting the autonomy of students, helping students, consulting, time for foreign students, contacts,**
- clearness of aims and requirements, syllabus explanation,
- **contact of students/teachers with the outer world,**
- exams requirements, , administration-student relations,
- social care, medical care, support
- **social life (events, after-school activities, socializing, etc.)**

*How does the daily life of student compare to the life of students in your country?*

Totally different, I know that this is an experience that does not have relation with a normal life of student in my country. It is simple cooler and with a lot of things to do with your social relations. You are always with them having fun, visiting new places...

### **Cultural learning**

*What was your first culture shock moment?*

First, I was thinking that people are unfriendly but after be in university life its not true, they are friendly. But I suppose that in the beginning was the differences between culture.

*Did you suffer a culture stress (longer culture shock, discomfort)? Give examples in which ways, aspects....*

No, I did not suffer any type of discomfort. Maybe with procedures of Erasmus, it is necessary to pay so much attention

*What did you miss?*

Just a good kitchen.

Rubén Ortiz Vigara

*How did you overcome the loneliness?*

I did not feel any loneliness, but I think that is important take advantage of your time and do productive things, also take advantage of the opportunity to be in another country with international people. Nowadays, with technologies you can videocall every friend of familiar that you have.

*What were your own discoveries of the Slovak culture, or other cultures (learning from Erasmus students)?*

Learn languages is fun. Learn witch type of music, thought or perspective have other people from different countries is great. With ESN we did a big meeting showing our culture to all partners with food, music, curiosities... Also, I discover traditional dances, food and history. History is very interesting to learn

*Did you explore Slovakia? Were you interested in the life of the town? did you participate on the town life?*

I went to a lot of places of Slovakia West and East to all this little towns, also to all places that are fun to go here in Banská Bystrica. My favourite place was Hight Tatras. I was interested in the life of the town also, we did activities to learn more about it.

*Did you make friends with Slovaks?*

I did not, all Slovaks that I met were of ESN and they were so nice.

*How do you perceive **Slovaks**? Give some characteristics based on your experience.*

It depends there are more friendly Slovaks and less friendly. I perceive that some slovaks are not very active and that they put weird faces when I started to talk them in English, especially in the market or in the gym. But when it is in university, they are more open.

*Did you make friends with other Erasmus students?*

Totally, we are good friends all of us. There are some personal relations that are not so good but it is totally normal.

*What did you learn about Slovakia? Which cultural differences did you spot (observe) between the Slovak and your own culture?*

Maybe in my culture we are noisier and here is more relax. There are less urbanisation and big nature. I think Slovakia is less influenced for the globalization and one aspect that was curios for me was that there is few immigration.

*What did you learn about yourself? (as being a foreigner in the country, having to survive, having to adapt, relating to your own national culture, comparing...)?*

I learn a lot of things, here was a period of reflect to become more productive and how I can improve my life. Also, it is a great experience to develop adventure and travels with experience.

Rubén Ortiz Vigarà

The next time would be easier to adapt faster and take it easier, for example in transport, how to go to another places, how to travel in a better way, all was about learn from other people.

*When you compare your first impressions (about the country, university or about your place here) with how you feel about things now, can you say that something has changed, something happened in terms of your feelings, attitudes, thinking and judging?*

I was thinking that was going to be more complex that is. Also, in the beginning I was feeling like was going to be more loneliness but that is neither correct, it is easy make a lot of friends fast. In the beginning I was lost but little by little you find a way. I had a big mistake with procedures and I was very worried and I was thinking that I was not going to be able to get my scholarship but I learnt that I am very impulsive and I need relax and think more about what I can do.

*Which are the positives (benefits) of your stay in another culture in terms of your development as a person, as a learner and as an intercultural professional?*

- Productivity
- Experience of life
- How to travel and do big things
- Learn more about the world
- Learn different cultures
- Learn in other country
- Learn languages
- Meet interesting people
- Get new objectives
- Organization
- Find more curiosities
- New ways to travel

**For last words I would like to ...**

**That I enjoy so much my stance here and I am going to remember it**