

The Erasmus trip is not only an opportunity to meet new people and culture. It is also an opportunity to test yourself - your openness and curiosity about the world. Once you have decided to leave and you know where and for how long you want to go - do not hesitate a moment!

Why Kosice?

As 4 students of the 6th year of Veterinary Medicine from Lublin, we decided to go on a semester trip. It is an internship semester of study, and the university in Košice offers education not only in the treatment of dogs and cats, but also pigs, cattle, horses, birds and exotic animals. There is also a falconry branch very famous in Europe.

Where to start?

After establishing contact with the department coordinators, all formal matters ran very smoothly. Step by step coordinators guide you through the recruitment process, and in the case of Košice, even arranging accommodation was very easy. It was all arranged by Slovak coordinator – Mr. Mario Segurado, who helps with all of documentation, accommodation, plan of practices etc. You can contact him with every issue and receive help. That is very important, because during our stay – in the middle of pandemic – everything was changing by the hour and we needed to change our schedules and plans very fluently. Thanks to the coordinator's help, everything went smoothly.

Note, usually there are only 4-5 people at a Slovak university!

Accommodation

Erasmus students from all over the world get the whole corridor on the 1st floor (there is an elevator) in the dormitory, located 5 minutes walk from the university clinics. The rooms are double, the monthly fee is 87 euros per person. This is not a high standard, but there is a washing machine on each floor (washing for 1 euro for 2.5h), a small kitchen, toilet and 3 showers. The building is guarded by a porter, and for students there is a parking lot with video surveillance behind the barrier. Wi-fi is available after registration at the University campus in IT department.

ID and fees

Upon arrival, each student is obliged to obtain a student ID card from the University of Košice, which costs 23 euros. It makes no sense to get a separate ISIC card in your home country. This ID card allows you to open the magnetic door at the entrance to the university (without it, you have to circle the entire clinic area to enter the main entrance), the gates in the dormitory without waking the porter, as well as ordering lunches, about which below.

Boarding

There are two canteens for students - the first one in the clinics, the second ... on the ground floor of the dormitory! In special machines, after scanning your ID card, you can order dinners even for a whole week in advance. The cost of one is 3.9 euros, which includes soup, main course (very filling and tasty!), compote and a small dessert. For this price, you can also order a delicious pizza in the canteen ;) You can also order food with delivery to the dorm without any problems. There's plenty of shops around the dorms, Billa is about 10 minutes on foot, Lidl is 5 minutes by car and there are some little grocery stores around.

Practices and language

We learned a lot during the internships in Košice! The lecturers are very open to the work of students, allow them to prove themselves and are very helpful. As soon as someone takes the initiative, it is allowed to treat and care for the animals. The internships are held from Monday to Sunday, the hours are agreed with the department coordinator. The most interesting of the internships is a 3-day trip to a cattle farm. After receiving a special outfit and accommodation, students learn to deliver, perform hoof correction or administer medications. Everyone is fluent in English, while speaking Polish is fully understood and it is easy to communicate even in Slovak.

The coordinator receives a paper index, in which, after completing each internship and completing it with the teacher, a grade is entered.

In addition to learning ...

I heartily recommend going to Slovakia, not only because of the interesting university and positive people. In our free time, we managed to visit the surrounding castles and caves. Moving around Slovakia is very clear, but you have to follow the rules of the road (up to 50 km/h in the city and more outside, but be careful - fines are very high!). Mountain lovers can easily reach the Tatra Mountains and interesting hiking trails by train.

Do not hesitate – it's been an adventure, especially due to pandemia but we have great memories for lifetime!

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