

## **RELAZIONE SU MOBILITA' ERASMUS STUDIO**

### *REPORT ON MOBILITY ERASMUS STUDIO*

PARTNER UNIVERSITY: HÁSKOLINN Á BÍFRÖST

#### **Qualità dell'Università e dei corsi di studio seguiti**

*Quality of the University and the courses of study followed*

Università molto valida, non tanto grande perché non accoglie mediamente tanti studenti, comunque classi ordinate, con tutto il necessario (prese elettriche in ogni banco, supplementi multimediali ecc.). Anche i corsi di studio sono stati validi, coerenti con il programma, professori competenti (eccetto il prof di international business) e disponibili per ogni evenienza.

#### **Organizzazione degli uffici e disponibilità dei docenti**

*Organization of offices and availability of teachers*

Gli uffici avevano una orario un po' restrittivo (chiudevano alle 4) ma comunque non ci sono mai stati problemi.

Quasi tutti i docenti vivevano lontano dal campus, quindi erano presenti solo nell'orario di lezione, ma in ogni momento lì si poteva contattare tramite email ed erano sempre molto disponibili e partecipi.

#### **Servizi a disposizione degli studenti**

*Services available to students*

Aree studio all'interno dell'università, una biblioteca, la palestra, l'hot tub, una stanza di ritrovo con svaghi vari.

#### **Esperienza in generale (città, accomodation, prezzi, servizi, cibo, etc.)**

*General experience (city, accommodation, prices, services, food, etc.)*

Esperienza fantastica, consigliata a chi è interessato alla tranquillità, alla natura e a situazione intime con non troppe persone. L'Islanda è un posto meraviglioso da un punto di vista paesaggistico, e a discapito di cosa si può pensare, è facilmente vivibile anche d'inverno, nonostante il freddo e il buio. Il campus non si trovava propriamente in una città, infatti c'eravamo solo noi e la città più vicina (Borgarnes) era a circa una mezz'oretta di macchina da noi. Eravamo accomodati all'interno di tante piccole case in fila contenenti ognuna 6 stanze singole con bagno privato, una cucina comune e un salottino/living room. Prezzi più che accessibili (sui 360€ al mese per l'affitto) più c'era da pagare una tassa per i servizi comunque non troppo costosa. Il prezzo della vita in generale tuttavia è sensibilmente più alto che in Italia. Per mangiare avendo la cucina ci si preparava le cose da soli anche se volendo c'era un ristorante aperto la sera per cena dove si poteva ordinare pizza, zuppe, altri piatti anche tipici.

#### **Consigliaresti questa esperienza ad altri studenti? Sì/No, perché?**

*Would you recommend this experience to other students? Yes / No, why?*

Consiglio vivamente questa esperienza ad altri studenti, infatti per me è stato un modo per imparare a vivere da solo, a conoscere nuove fantastiche persone e nuove culture, ad imparare l'inglese e a visitare posti mozzafiato che non avrei mai potuto vedere da nessun'altra parte se non in Islanda. Non essendo tanti studenti inoltre per me è stato meglio perché la situazione era molto più intima e così conoscevo tutti (eravamo come una grande famiglia).

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*REPORT ON MOBILITY ERASMUS STUDIO*

PARTNER UNIVERSITY: **Háskólinn á Bifröst (ICELAND)**

**Qualità dell'Università e dei corsi di studio seguiti**

*Quality of the University and the courses of study followed*

The quality of the university building and organization is very high.

I followed four courses (three and two per each slot). Be careful because the material to do online in preparation for each lecture is quite a lot. Teachers come only once per week and have meetings with students and expect them to discuss materials revised at home. Do not pick more than two classes per slot. Check the website and the course offer before doing the learning agreement.

Students do a lot of assignments during the lecture time and submit them online. Assignments count a lot. Depending on the subject can be up to 50% of the final grade. This happens because there are no exams, lectures and preparation during the slot breaks. Only for the classes that cover both slots (such as Icelandic language and culture, I think it is the only one – for this subject the teacher might give some assignments and readings to do during the break).

**Organizzazione degli uffici e disponibilità dei docenti**

*Organization of offices and availability of teachers*

International office is very helpful and caring about students' needs for campus and university issues.

The staff at the international office, front desk and housing office is very kind and extremely helpful. Professors that teach at the University are well prepared and help students with feedbacks on assignments and exams.

CANVAS – is the program for the assignments to submit and other exchanging materials between teachers and students that we used this year. It was quite new, but very easy. Students will find all the online lectures that they are supposed to listen to/watch before the actual class.

**Servizi a disposizione degli studenti**

*Services available to students*

This university offers a well equipped with library and working rooms and spaces inside the University buildings. There is a gym with the hot pot outside. You have to run in the swim suite in the snow sometimes in the winter, but it is the best thing to experience in Iceland. One week bus for the grocery shopping (this year it was on Friday, might change); additional items if there are few in the house (pans, pots, toasters – this is what I asked for, because we didn't have enough in the house and/or they were broken) other small repair if any to be done in the house are usually requested and the workers are available and can fix everything within one day. You should be able to ask for what is your actual need.

There is a hang out room in the campus for table games, PS, music, film watching and organized events and dinners. Students association involves erasmus student to organise some intertainment for the guests of the campus (distant learning students and erasmus students).

### **Esperienza in generale (città, accomodation, prezzi, servizi, cibo, etc.)**

*General experience (city, accommodation, prices, services, food, etc.)*

Very positive. Can vary from person to person, but the average price for living was less that I expected. In the village where student go for shopping there are several possibilities and different kind of supermarket (BONUS – good price and good quality, NETTO – differentiated products, a more wide offer on specific items, in a bigger building with other shops: sport store, clothes and other items store, liquore store - alcohol in Iceland is sold separately).

The weather in Iceland is not an opinion. It happened to have two maybe three evenings for few hours to have a blackout and have no electricity because of the strong wind. Teachers might not reach the campus because of the bad weather. During my stay in February there was a hurricane that hit the island and it was really stormy and windy, but it doesn't happen every year and every winter.

If students choose the spring semester (Jan-Apr) the light hours are very restricted. In winter it will be dark until 11 a.m. and will become dark again around 4 p.m. there is no polar night. Nevertheless in summer around June there are polar days, hence 24 hours of light time.

### **Consiglieresti questa esperienza ad altri studenti? Si/No, perché?**

*Would you recommend this experience to other students? Yes / No, why?*

I would definitely recommend this experience, but students must be careful because it might be something that they would not expect from a "classical" ERASMUS stay. You have to be prepared to be very independent and organize yourself for one or more weeks in advance. The campus is very beautiful and well located. Bifröst is **FAR** from Reykjavík (120 km), and **FAR** from other village/town e.g. Borgarnes (30 km). Do not expect to have a city life, disco, pubs ecc. There are many things that you can do within campus, but be ready that you might not move from there for one week, until the next shopping day.

This offer is mainly for the nature lovers that enjoy staying far from chaotic places and roads. If you love going for a walk (there is a nearby volcano, small waterfalls, lake). Check the University website first and look on Google maps where the campus exactly is.

There is no much interaction with Icelanders, Icelandic students (this is mainly an on-line school and students come only sometimes in the working weekends to spend time in the campus and have fun in the evening all together, but are not living and/or studying in the campus).