ERASMUS REPORT BY ADÉL KÖVES
UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA
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Having spent the 2018 fall semester at the University of Bologna as an Erasmus student was definitely one of the greatest experiences I have ever had. I have enjoyed those few month to the fullest and for sure gained great knowledge of previously unknown things and precious friendships. I am therefore recommending to anyone that is interested in spending their Erasmus semester at the university of Bologna, to do so; ensuring them its one of the best student cities of the world.

For that I am going to share with you some important informations, as well as my personal experiences. I am firstly going to elaborate my thoughts about everything I find important when it comes to applying to an Erasmus semester, as well as once you are there.

I will than share with you how living a student life in Bologna is and why I truly recommend you to go there.

When it comes to applying for an Erasmus semester, you have to be careful to which program and which major you are applying for. Sometimes it doesn’t necessarily matches, in that case you should look for the one that covers your studies the most. As I am a Communication student, I have felt myself the closest to the International Relations department at the Bologna Campus. Also it is important to note that there are different campuses at the University Of Bologna, therefore you also have to deal with that. After being accepted to the university, I had to select my courses. As being an Erasmus student there, you can choose both BA and MA courses within your major. I tried to choose courses that can be counted in to my mandatory courses at my home university, facilitating that way my studies.

Once the application part was done, I had to fill in my Learning Agreement and send it first to my coordinator at the University of Bologna and then send it back home to the coordinator from Corvinus University. This can be done prior your arrival to the chosen university, I have personally done it once I was there because the process was unknown to me prior.

During my stay, I have modified two times my learning agreement, I have changed courses at the first weeks. This is something that can be done throughout your stay at any time, but preferably in the first weeks or so. A mistake I have made, and which shouldn’t be followed, is that I gave up on my coordinator there because she wasn’t really active answering me. However, it is highly recommended to try to stay in touch every time you feel the need, because at the end of the day they can help you.

The University of Bologna itself is really much prepared for international student since it takes part in the Erasmus program since the longest ages. Therefore you can find help and information at every campus in English language and there are several people and school staff in charge of the Erasmus program, thus facilitating your life.

In the very first days of my arrival to Bologna, I have requested myself a student idea through the site of the university which arrived in a couple of days. I also requested a bus pass (valid for every bus circling in the city) through the site of the university. It takes 10 euros If I remember well and is valid for a whole year. It arrives in maximum of two weeks and can be collected in the city centre.
I would indicate here, that I rarely used any buses, because the heart of the city and the whole city centre concentrates on a relatively small area, and the school (with it different departments) are situated in this area. This is something very positive and I really enjoyed the fact that I could go by feet to my main destinations.

Local people also like to walk, or use their stylish Italian motorcycles. The streets are small, like in the real traditional Italian cities, yet full of people and life. It’s wonderful.

When it comes to the housing, I feel myself lucky, because a good friend of mine is living in Bologna and helped me find a great small apartment for a good price. It’s important to note however that usually housing prices are high in Bologna because there are a lot of international students and a big need for that. The city is after all well prepared for this, and offers a great variety of lodgements.

Shopping can be done easily, there are many grocery stores both near the university but also in outside districts. I usually went to a shop named “Carrefour”, there is a great variety of foods there. But there are other opportunities as well.

Of course it’s not necessary to mention, that the food is marvellous since we are speaking about the good old original Italian cuisine. There is a huge number of restaurants and street food opportunities, where you can choose between the most delicious dishes, going from pasta to high quality meats and all kinds of vegetables.

I have spent there a lot of time eating obviously, it’s not hard when you have such opportunities.

It is important to mention, the nightlife in Bologna, since it is an essential part of every student’s life. The city has a very festive mind-set, there are numerous bars inside the city centre, basically every corner, and you can also find clubs and party places outside of the city centre. There are also plenty Erasmus student events, both during the day and in the evenings, this can be easily accessed by student associations and via different social media platforms (ex: Facebook). It’s not during only the evening that city shines, there are several festivals during the day and different programs hosted by the city itself, that attracts the majority of the population to the streets.

I feel like it’s crucial to mention that it is not hard at all to successfully complete such a semester at the University of Bologna, all this by also successfully completing all expectations at our home University. And I am saying this because I have heard lot of people saying they are scared of going on an Erasmus period, mainly because they are scared to not be able to complete all requirements at both places and because they are scared to fail the semester at the home university.

The University of Bologna being a good ranked and very efficient system, can be relatively easily completed if someone is into it. I have not faced any difficulties during my stay and could very efficiently
complete both schools at the same time. I think the key here is to handle everything in time and stay in touch with your home teachers as much as possible. In that case there should be no problems with it.

If I had to conclude on my semester at the University of Bologna, I would definitely say that it was such a great experience and I am more than glad to have being able to stay there. Everything that had to be handled (applying, schooling, housing...) went very easily, and I have received help form basically everyone when needed throughout my stay. The school itself is very well organized and prepared for international students and is more than ready to help them.

The city itself is super pretty, interesting and has a lovely culture. The people inside are one of the most positive worldwide, who are looking for getting to know you. I could feel the positive vibe, no matter where I was or where I went.

There was a great variety of programs and opportunities that I got to know and face throughout my free time, and have really much enjoyed it.

It is easy to travel from Bologna, having an international airport but also great railway connections to countless places. You can travel inside the country very easily with relatively cheap prices by train, but you can also reach bigger European cities as well.

The weather in Bologna is very good, similar to any European countries but it’s usually warmer with some degrees than at Budapest.

I am therefore recommending going to Bologna as an Erasmus student with my best intentions to anyone who is interested it. I can guarantee that you will have the greatest time and will truly enjoy not only the school itself but this great city and the Emilia Romagna Region.