Report of our ERASMUS + mobility

In winter semester 2016/2017 we spent four months at Humboldt University in Berlin as a ERASMUS+, exchange students from University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Philosophy- department for Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian language. Our time there was a great experience. That was the first time our Department offers a possibility of studying abroad. We are very happy that we were there. We were very satisfied with everything that Humboldt University and Department for Slavic studies at Faculty of Philosophy II offered to us. At the beginning our coordinator, Philipp Wassercheidt helped us about all documents we need and about all information that were important for us. Professors who we met in Berlin were very opened for conversation with us and sometimes adjusted their lessons to us, because we were at A1 level of German. The seminars that we attended were interesting and good because we saw how students and professors from Berlin see our languages and our culture and also the way that they learn about it. During our mobility, we attended German course and it helped us to improve our German skills but we think that students who do not speak German, should have a possibility to come one month before to start learning language.

We met many people from all over the world. It was interesting to meet new cultures, habits and way of living. Students at Humboldt University were kind and helpful in every situation. There were many students with origins from our country, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and we were very happy to meet them too.

The only, bigger problem that we had, was finding accommodation. It was new experience for us and we could not find accommodation for us before we went in Berlin. When we found out that we got the scholarship it was already late to apply for students dormitories and we had to find private accommodation. Finding our accommodation lasted for the whole first month of our mobility in Berlin and it was really hard. We think that is the biggest problem that you can have in such a big city like Berlin and that accommodation for foreign students should be something that they got within scholarship.

One thing more, not so positive, is that our home University in Sarajevo is not so opened to accept our ECTS gained at Humboldt University because system of studying is different, so after we come back, we have to pass most of our exams that we missed while we were in Berlin. We hope our home University will do things to change it.

When we sum up our four months in Berlin, we are very happy that we got this scholarship and opportunity to study and live abroad. That was a new experience and we recommend to all students to apply for this kind of scholarship. There is no way to regret.

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(ERASMUS+ students from Bosnia and Herzegovina)