

An Erasmus student in Salzburg

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(Erasmus student, University of Malta, Summer Semester 2016)

Engulfed in the mountains in the North Western corner of Austria, Salzburg offers a perfect melange of a small town atmosphere and a cosmopolitan city aspirations. It is a city that defies its size and manages to attract students from all over the world. The University of Salzburg adds to this attractiveness given its good reputation as an excellent centre for learning and research. It was these elements together with the architectural and natural beauty of the city that convinced me to choose Salzburg for my Erasmus experience.

I arrived in the city a total stranger, but left four months later with a heavy heart for I was leaving behind me a city I grew to love and wonderful friends from all four corners of the world. The thing that surprised me most was the diversity and richness of this small town. It was easy to make new friends during the various activities organized by student organizations. The experience was rich and this contact with people of different backgrounds, cultural and religious, made me much more tolerant and rekindled in me the curiosity to discover many regions of the world.

Although the language of the city is German, one can easily communicate in English. The University offers various German courses, for beginners and for those who need just a little bit more to understand Goethe in the original tongue. The language courses are organized in a way to cater for the different exigencies of the students.

As a law student the Law Faculty offered a wide range of very interesting courses. The dilemma for us was what to leave out. The professors are very passionate about their subjects and always ready to help. The administration and the lecturers are very

approachable and they will go out of their way to help. Studying in Salzburg opens new perspectives on the world. The strategic geographical position of the city in the very heart of Europe, and Austria's past as an important power in Europe makes the Austrian approach a very unique one. Salzburg serves as a bridge between Eastern Europe, Western Europe, the Balkan Region, Italy and the Mediterranean in the South and Germany in the North. This serves to create an interesting point of view on the world around us.

As things stand today I feel that it is more important than ever to delve into comparative studies to better understand each other. In Salzburg this is possible. Lecture halls are usually packed with students coming from more than twenty countries and we had the opportunity to hear about the legal system of each one of them.

I don't wish to sound over optimistic about studying in Salzburg but I am sure that those who studied here agree with what I wrote and I invite others to make this experience too!

