

Erasmus in Poland

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Hi guys! I am studying at YTU. I did my Erasmus in Szczecin, Poland. Before YTU and during my studies at YTU I heard a lot about Erasmus + program. And I decided to attend to this amazing program, at least for one semester. After my success on English exam, I decided to go to Poland. And then it became one of the unforgettable moments of my education years. I shared some of these moments and tried to give some directions for those who want to do Erasmus in coming years. I hope it will be helpful 😊

1) Erasmus + (Short description)

Erasmus program gives students tremendous chance; to meet with new people from different European countries and from different nationalities, to improve their language skills, to travel and see the stunning European cities, to learn new cultures etc.

2) Poland (Country, Cities, Money in Poland, Culture and People)

Poland is located in the eastern part of Europe continent. Neighbouring countries are Germany, Czechia, Slovakia, Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania and Russian (Kaliningrad).

Capital city of Poland is Warsaw. And it's the most populated city in Poland. In Warsaw there are 2 main airports, almost everywhere you can find flights. The city is the most modern one in Poland. Other main cities: Krakow, Gdansk, Szczecin, Lodz, Poznan... Krakow is situated in the Lesser Poland. It's one of the historical cities in that region. It has old town in the center. And there are a lot of museums and Synagogues, worth seeing.

Poland has its own currency called Zloty (PLN). There is always good conversion rate between USD Dollar and Zloty also between EURO and Zloty. Turkish Lira (TL) and Zloty almost has the same exchange rate.

Poland is big country. And every region has own culture. Generally west part of the country influenced by Germany, in that side majority of people can speak in German also. In contrast, east part of country influenced by Russia so there, people speak in Russian, but not that much. People do not have that good opinion about non-European countries. However, in Poland there are a lot of people who are helpful and respectful.

3) Szczecin (Location, Transport, University, Dormitory, Markets and Prices)

Szczecin is located in the west part of Poland, near the Baltic sea and Berlin. For those who love traveling, Szczecin is a nice choice because of its short distance to Berlin.

Szczecin does not have a subway system. But it has trams and buses, which are so handy. There is a special discount for students. You just need to buy a student ticket on a station from a Ticket Vending Machine. But no need to give it to the driver or to show him. You just need to keep it during the trip. In case conductors ask you, you will have to show the ticket. If you don't have it, you will have to pay a fine.

ZUT is a technical university. They don't have campuses like in Turkey. Every faculty is located in different parts of the city. Lecturers, Student Office, Erasmus Office and professors are helpful. Everything will be ready for you at university. If some of your courses is overlapping you just need to go to the Erasmus Office. They will arrange it for you. There will be special classes for only Erasmus students. And for our faculty usually Erasmus students are from Turkey and Spain. Courses during the Erasmus program are not that difficult. But still need to be careful. Some of the lecturers are so strict. I still remember my Thermodynamics course from Mechanical Faculty 😊

Probably you will stay in DS4. It takes 5 minutes from DS4 to Marine Engineering faculty on foot. Main library and Biedronka (market) are also close to DS4. Dormitory life is really fun in Szczecin. On every floor there are two kitchens. So be ready, you will prepare everything by yourself. By the way DS4 is also close to Main Train Station.

In Szczecin the main markets are: Carrefour, Biedronka, Fresh Market and Zabka. But Biedronka is the most suitable one. There you can find everything at any price. Generally prices are low. (e.g., bread - 2,50 zlt / drinking water 1-3 zlt / beer 1-4 zlt)

4) Student Life in Szczecin (Buddy, Cafes, Parties and Clubs)

When you arrive to Szczecin there will be someone who will pick you up. Buddies are helpful. Before departure they will contact with you. But in Szczecin every buddy is responsible for at least 10 students, so they will not spend a lot of time with you, unfortunately.

In Szczecin there are a lot of cafes. And majority of them offer special prices for students. There are also cafes where you can find 'Döner' (e.g. Berlin Kebap Döner... I recommend it. They prepare something tasty, I am sure you never tried it 😊)

Almost every night there will be parties, especially in the first two weeks of Erasmus. For that you will need to pay at the beginning about 100 zlt (I don't remember exactly...) And ESN members will give you a special card. With this one you can enter to party clubs in the first 2 weeks for free and you can get also free beer. Parties are the best places to meet with other Erasmus students and to have fun.

In Szczecin there are a lot of clubs that you can go even after these parties. And majority of them have free entrance for students. Pinokio is the most popular one among these clubs. And it's close to all dormitories.

5)Traveling(Cities of Poland , Other Europe Countries)

If fifty percent of the erasmus program is for education, I think the another fifty is for traveling, learning European culture and having fun. Poland has great train systems. It offers 51% of discount for students to travel from one city of Poland to another one. Also you can take buses from companies like 'Polski Bus' or 'Flix Bus'. I think everyone at least should visit Krakow in Poland. It is one of the historical cities of Poland.

For traveling the another countries in Europe, I think the best choice is flights. I generally had flights with 'Ryanair'. And I recommend it to everyone, because of it's low prices and comfortability. As I mentioned before, Szczecin is so close to Berlin. And from Berlin Airports it is easy to find flights to everywhere. I had flights to Italy and France from Berlin , and to Finland from Gdansk by plane. And I went to Hungary by bus from Krakow.

FAQ

- When the YTU Erasmus Office adds scholarship to the student's bank accounts?

-In the first month of beginning of the Erasmus program (Almost end of October for winter semester)

- How enough is the 80% of scholarship, which is given by YTU at the beginning of Erasmus ?

-I just spent a bit more money than the scholarship because of my travelings to other cities. Poland is really not that expensive country .

- Which Polish Bank is the most suitable one to convert money to zlt ?

-WBK. At least for me and for all my friends .

- The best way from Istanbul to Szczecin ?

-The most suitable one is firstly by plane from Istanbul to Berlin (almost 3 hours) and after that by bus from Berlin to Szczecin (about 3 hours). Or another one is like that; from Istanbul to Warsaw by plane (about 2 hours and 30 minute) and from Warsaw to Szczecin by train (almost 8 hours) or by bus.

- Are the courses in english ? Are they difficult to succeed ?

- Yes, all of them are in english. They are not difficult. It's possible to succeed in all courses and to make good marks. Just all you need is to make good Schedule during erasmus.

From now I wish you an amazing Erasmus. If you have any question please do not hesitate to write me. Good Luck ! ☺

