

Report Form Erasmus Exchange Abroad 2019-2020
Host University: University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Mobility period: 1st October 2019 – 24th January 2020

Courses:

1. Mergers, Acquisitions and Corporate Restructurings
2. European Human Rights Law
3. Diplomatic and Consular Law
4. International Criminal Law
5. Civil Medical Law

General remarks:

Slovenia is rather very small, but picturesque country. Its location is perfect in the sense that the country includes everything. Whenever you feel like going to the mountains or see a beautiful nature, you can head to the north. If you prefer some salt in your hair and a calming sound of the sea, just head to the south. All of it can be roughly reached within 2 hours. I doubt you will ever get enough of Slovenia; however, if the time comes, you can make a trip to one of the neighboring countries such as Croatia, Italy, Austria or Hungary. What's more, Balkan is generally very cheap, which makes it even easier to go even further and visit Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina or Kosovo. This exchange was definitely a true cultural experience.

Study program:

The University of Ljubljana offers at least 10 courses in English per semester. Each course has 6 credits, which means that you can choose 5 out of 10 courses. It may sound a lot, but I must say that it was just right amount. Both exam periods and exams were different from Groningen. The year is not divided to blocks, but rather longer exam periods at the end of the semester. You have to register for the exam yourself and you can choose from two available dates. Exams are either written or oral, which depends on the lecturer.

Mergers, Acquisitions and Corporate Restructurings:

To begin with, it was one of the best courses I have ever had. However, in order to like it, you have to be really interested in commercial and financial law. Nevertheless, prof. Marko Simonetti provided us with very practical examples in all topics and led us through the processes and practices of corporates, banks as well as the functions of the Bank Union. The exam was written and 40% of the grade was attendance. Even though it takes a bit of work to follow the course and understand the content, I would definitely recommend this course.

European Human Rights Law:

Most of the content of this course was already covered in Groningen, but prof. Saša Zagorc brought up some new case-law to the attention. Part of the course was a case analysis followed by the presentation of your paper. The exam was written and composed of a small case and a theoretical question. Even though the topics were very interesting, the lecturer's presentation skills are not the greatest and the lecture can easily become very boring. In case you need to choose one more subject to fill in the gap, you can do it. But in general, I would not recommend this course.

Diplomatic and Consular Law:

A large amount of the content of the course was already covered in the International Public Law in Groningen. Except for the consular part, which is covered pretty much in-depth during lectures in Ljubljana. Part of the course is a mandatory attendance of the MUNLaw Conference, which is very challenging, but fun activity over the weekend. The exam was oral and took from 15 to 20 minutes. It was not the easiest one, but still very bearable. The bonus is that the professor sometimes brings her dog to lectures. If you're interested in this topic, I would definitely recommend taking this course.

International Criminal Law:

The content of this course was a bit different from my expectations. It was more of a travelling back in time to the first year and criminal law. Lectures were structured in a way that the professor provided you with a bit of a theory followed by the discussion about the topic. The topics mainly included the trolley dilemma (and many similar ones), sexual autonomy and additional topics on which you could make a presentation. Presentations were also part of the written exam. If you were lucky to make one, it was also a bonus thanks to which you could either opt out one question on the exam or receive +1 on the final grade. Generally, the discussions were very interesting and enriching and therefore I would recommend this course.

Civil Medical Law:

This course was very interesting. It covered medical philosophy as well as most of the controversial topics such as Biomedically Assisted Procreation, abortion or the rights of mother and father, euthanasia etc. Lectures also included different discussion that involved very interesting insights from different countries. Part of the course was also a possibility to make a presentation. The exam was written. If you're interested in these topics, I would recommend this course.

Most of the lectures were 2-2,5h long with a small break or without any, but that depended on the teacher.

Language:

If you're afraid that nobody will understand you, I can assure you that most of the Slovenians speak English perfectly. Slovenian is very interesting language too and if you have an opportunity, try to learn at least basics. They will appreciate it. They also don't do the voice over in movies, which is very nice because you can go to the cinema and enjoy the movie without having troubles understanding.

Finance and other conditions:

Slovenia is much cheaper compared to the Netherlands. If you're making groceries for the whole week, you'll pay half the price in Ljubljana. Also, the Slovenian government provides you with Studentski boni, which are a true lifesaver. You can use the in restaurants all over Ljubljana and from having a free meal, it can cost you maximum 4,70 € for soup, salad, the main dish and a fruit or a dessert. With regard to other conditions, you're required to apply for the residence permit, but the whole process will be described in the e-mail you will receive from the host university. There are no additional costs for the university unless you need to print something.

Housing:

In Ljubljana, you have an opportunity to sign up for the student dormitories, but places are very limited. To find a private accommodation is possible, but it can be very long and frustrating process. There are many FB groups and websites, where you can find good offers, but if you want to save some money on it, you have to bear in mind that rooms are usually shared. As the faculty is right in the center, it would be better to look at the accommodation nearby to avoid long travels by bus.

Guidance at the host university:

Before the classes started, we had a welcoming event, where we had a tour around the faculty and a small reception, where you could meet your fellow classmates. The next day, we could sign up for the guided city tour, which was very nice and ended with a typical Slovenian lunch. The university was very helpful with every problem we had, and the communication was very fast. If you don't want to buy any books, you can always go to the library, which has all you need. What is more, if there is a book missing, they will order it without any further problems. The university also provides you with the access to different law portals such as Hein Online etc.

Other:

Ljubljana is a beautiful and very much a student friendly city. With its size, it may remind you of Groningen a little. That's why it is also very easy to move around the city. For using a public transport, you'd need a so-called Urbana card, which is very easy to get. With this card, you can also rent a bike in case you'd miss your daily rides. From my experience, Slovenians are very nice people with rich history. They can appear a bit cold at the beginning, but they'll change in your really good friends once you get to know each other better. Ljubljana and Slovenia in general stole my heart and I would definitely recommend this city for your exchange. You won't regret your choice.