

Report Form Erasmus 2021-2022

Host University: University of Ljubljana, Slovenia -- Mobility period: 1st October 2021 – 26th January 2022

Courses:

1. European Human Rights Law
2. International Criminal Law
3. Civil Medical Law
4. Diplomatic and Consular Law
5. International and European Social Security Law

General remarks:

I have decided to do my Erasmus in Slovenia to discover a country that is so closed to my home town and that I have never had the chance to really visit. Ljubljana is a very nice city, quite small but full of life. If you like to live in Groningen, you will definitely enjoy Ljubljana as well. Also, its position is very handy to do trips within Slovenia but also outside. I am really happy with my choice, and I would recommend this experience to everyone.

Study program:

The University of Ljubljana offers 10 courses in English for Erasmus students, each of them of 6 credits. The exams are at the end of the period, and they can be both written and oral. You have 3 dates available for each course, if you pass the exam on the first date, you cannot repeat it, but if you do not pass it, you can repeat it on the second date available. Grades are from 1 to 10, 6 is the passing grade.

European Human Rights Law

This course focus on the ECHR and the role of the ECtHR. The lectures were divided in two parts: first the theoretical part with the explanations of the professor, secondly some presentations by students. Every student had to write an analysis of a case of the ECtHR of his/her choice, and every week 3 or 4 cases were presented in front of the class. The final grade was calculated like this: 70% exam, 20% written analysis of the case, 10% participation in class. The exam was written and composed of two questions (even if the first one with 5 sub-questions). The only negative note that I have to mention is that the Professor decided to do the exam online even if it was possible to do it in person which, personally, I would have preferred.

International Criminal Law

This course was quite different that I expected, but I still liked it a lot. It is based on the discussion on legal dilemmas and legal situations that are dealt differently in different states (dilemmas of criminal complicity, dilemmas in necessity cases, sexual autonomy and criminal law, mistakes in criminal law, dilemmas concerning killing on request and assisted suicide, dilemmas of duress as a defense, dilemmas of superior orders as a defense, and command responsibility). Despite the different approach I really enjoyed the lectures because the discussion was active, and I got the chance to learn what is the approach taken by other states. The exam was written with 3 questions, and if you have followed the lectures, it was quite easy to get a good grade. Also, some students had the possibility to do a presentation which gave them the possibility or to have a bonus point in the exam or to opt out one of the questions of the exam.

Civil Medical Law

I also enjoyed this course which dealt with the Oviedo Convention, abortion, and IVF. The only side note is that the professor spent two lectures for the introduction, and we did not have time to deal with other topics that were on the program such as mandatory vaccine and euthanasia. The positive note is that some students had the possibility to do a presentation on a topic of their choice, and in this way, we had the chance to discuss more topics. For instance, I did a

presentation on the influence of the Vatican on abortion in Italy. The exam was written with 5 questions.

Diplomatic and Consular Law

My feelings on this course are a bit controversial. I really enjoyed the topic and the lectures that were really informative. Thanks to this course I had the possibility to deepen my knowledge on the topic of Consular and Diplomatic law that we only briefly dealt in Groningen. However, to pass this course it was mandatory to take part to the MunLaws, which is a simulation of the United Nations. I liked the idea, but we received very few information and no training at all on the rules of the meetings. During the weekend of the actual project, we faced discussion in the Committees with trained students from other universities, so we 'lost' the possibility to live in the best way this experience. The exam was oral, and it required quite some knowledge, the professor wanted to proof that you were able to connect the cases to the theoretical knowledge and also to answer to hypothetical cases.

International and European Social Security Law

This is the course I liked the least. The subject is not my favorite one, but I was curious about the course. However, I have found it a bit dispersive because it was taught by 2 professor who alternate during the weeks but did not follow a common program, so it was a bit difficult to follow. Moreover, at the very beginning they asked us to write a report on the social security scheme of our home country with very few guidelines. This was quite difficult and after some weeks of lectures we realized that, for example, we have missed in our report some important details. The exam was oral and personally it was quite stressful, but at the end I managed to get a good grade. So, I would recommend this course only if you are interested in the subject.

Finance

Slovenia is cheaper than the Netherlands. The Slovenia government provides the students the Studentski boni which are discounts for meals that can be used both at the cafeteria in the University as well as in a lot of restaurants in Ljubljana. In every restaurant you can have soup, salad, main dish, and a fruit or dessert, and it will cost a maximum of 5 EUR. I definitely recommend applying for this.

Housing

You can sign up for dormitories, but places are very limited. For private accommodation the best is to look on Facebook and other websites. The faculty of law is in the city center, so it would be better to find something nearby even though there are a lot of busses, and you can also reach everything by bike.

Preparation and contacts with the faculty abroad

Contacts with the faculty abroad has been very easy. I contacted them before choosing were to go to have some information regarding the courses offered, and they replied in few days with all the information. Also, the preparation of all the documents was pretty fast, and they have always been available for any question.

Guidance at the host university

The week before the starting of the classes, the university organized a trip to the Cave. This was really nice because we had the possibility to meet our classmates since it was only for the Erasmus students of the faculty of law. The day after we also had a meeting at the university where they gave us some practical information. Moreover, the international office was always very helpful.

Language

The main language is, of course, Slovenian, but mostly everyone can speak English. Only the documents and emails for the residence permit were always in Slovenian, but you can always ask the International Office of the university to help you.

Culture, free time, travelling

We had a lot of free time, so we tried to visit something new every weekend. Most of the time we visit some cities or other attractions in Slovenia in one day (Postojna Cave, Soca Valley, Piran...). Public transport are not very expensive and they reach all the main tourist destinations. Plus, Ljubljana is in a very strategic position because you can reach 3 other States in few hours (Italy, Austria, and Croatia). I did two trips outside Slovenia: one to Zagreb for 2 days, and one to Venice and Verona (I was the guide since I'm Italian 😊) for 3 days.

Other

I really enjoyed these months in Ljubljana, I would recommend this experience to everyone. Slovenia is a very beautiful country full of nature, and if you have never been there your Erasmus is the perfect way to discover this country.