

# 'My Lleida'

**Agnieszka Gapinska, University of Warsaw – Poland**



Someone once said: 'If you always do what you have always done, you will always get what you have always got.' During your Erasmus you can be sure to do and to get something totally different than usually! First of all you will find out that all those things that you considered to be difficult and frightening are very easy but those you would never even think about may give you a trouble sleeping!

My adventure with Erasmus took place when

I was pregnant so I really had a lot of to worry about. At the beginning you do not know anything, no matter how many people you asked or how many guides you read everything is new: the country, the city the university, the people, the customs, the habits, the food, the weather etc., etc. But the truth is that it frustrates you at the beginning and after two weeks you feel like home.

You cannot forget that this is only an addition and you will still have your 'ordinary' life. You can have a worse day, you can be in a bad mood or you can just simply miss your favourite cake and TV programme. Although Erasmus is all about the new experience sometimes you can be fed up with not being able to express yourself the way you would like to or with putting up with people that you do not necessarily like.

In my opinion to cope with Erasmus you need to have a purpose, something that will keep you going when the world seems to be dark and annoying. It does not matter if it is the need for partying or practicing foreign language – if you have something that will prevent you from going straight to the airport, it will be good.

My view is based on 6 months that I spent studying at University in Lleida and everything was exactly how I said before. Because their excellent preparation to welcome foreign students I did not have any problems with accommodation or bank account. Thanks to many integrating events I met everybody very quickly and made a lot of friends. I was studying at the Department of Education and I found my studies interesting and fulfilling. I also found a job and had some practice at school, so I could feel like a part of the society.

Anyway, sometimes when I was not able to explain myself correctly at the post office, missed the last bus, went shopping during 'siesta' or stuck in the middle of nowhere after one of the trips for hours I really missed my home.

Now, I can say that Lleida is my second (or even third) home and I do not consider it to be a strange place anymore. I spent there some wonderful and unique moments and experienced things that I would never be able to experience anywhere else.

I hope you will challenge yourself and try! Good luck!