

# How far from home?



*In this entry I will talk about how to deal with homesickness, and why it's not such a big issue that you might think it is;)*

Bringing the decision that I want to go on Erasmus was a fairly easy one for me because I was always adventurous, but I can understand that it's not easy for everyone. For a semester you not only leave your country, but your comfort zone too, and that means that you will have to deal with the unexpected. However it depends on you whether you consider this exciting or scary, and meanwhile a little thrill is okay, I'll try to show you how to cope with every situation in which you might miss home.

Fact Nr.1: In fact you will not have the time at all to be homesick. There will be so many things happening around you, a handful of new friends and plenty of places to visit that you will be pretty occupied enjoying this new chapter of your life. I remember the first week I got here I was thinking about some plans on how to fill my time, all these people to call on skype and all, but then the first erasmus meeting happened and I found myself on an island on the river surrounded by people all over the world who had so much stories to tell! I learned that in Lithuania you're considered short under 170cm, in Georgia they have a letter which stands for a clicking sound you have to make with your tongue, in Ireland Crème Eggs are so important during Easter that an Irish grandma will send it by post to his grandson no matter how far he might be and that in Mongolia not everybody owns a horse anymore 😊

Fact Nr.2: Erasmus will not isolate you from your friends at home. I might have been very busy during my semester, but this is also the reason why I had a lot of stories to tell them, and they were always curious about what's happening to me to the point that they got me to make video blogs so I could share my life with them all at once. One of them even said it's better than Netflix so I take it as a compliment, although I might not have the looks of a hollywood star through a webcam 😊



Fact Nr.3: Even if you feel a little homesick sometimes, I have some tips and tricks on what to do. For me the biggest deal was the taste on hungarian foods – actually as I said, polish cuisine is similar but still not the same as my family would make these dishes. It is an awesome idea to organise an 'Erasmus cook-off' where everybody contribute with one national dish, and I have to say everybody loved tócsni (potato pancakes) and túró rudi (come on if you've ever been to hungary, you probably know this one), and also it's an amazing opportunity to discover what people from other cultures normally eat, and also to have a nostalgia trip with your own national food. Even though most people wanted me to make Gulyás soup, I said that it's not a dish to be prepared in a dormitory since it need 5-6 hours to be made well, but I invited everybody to my hometown during the summer so that we could make it on open fire which is a nice outdoor program in itself.



Fact Nr.4: Wanderlust is catchy! If you keep telling your friends about the experiences you have sooner or later they might want to be a part of it: I had quite a few friends visit me and for them it becomes more than a simple vacation because they can have a personalised tour guide all the way. The thing is that by the end of the semester I know 'my coffeeshop' and the 'go-to-bar' and 'that little cozy restaurant' because I didn't just study here, I also *lived* here and as much as I became the part of this place it became the part of me too, so at this point my friends visit is also going to be a lot more personal than just a simple guided trip.

And it works the other way round too, I had the chance to visit some friends abroad during the semester, I discovered the baltics and it was indeed a dream came true! We had been mailing for a year now, it's also a cool oldschool thing if you want to discover more ways of keeping in contact. But more about that in the next entry;)



BUT WHERE'S  
THE 'SEND' BUTTON?

COULD IT BE BETTER THAN  
MESSENGER?