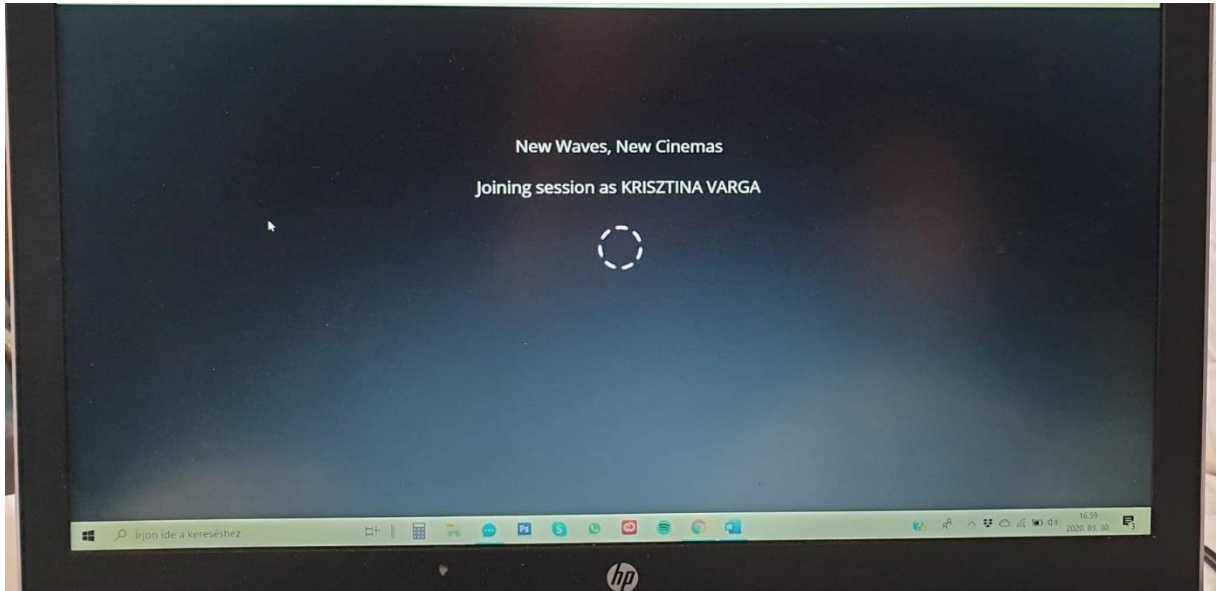


Online Education at UPV

Written by Krisztina Varga



Logging in to a class

Since March 12th, University of the Basque Country is teaching their classes online due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The classes are taught with the same curriculum and at the same time as before, but there are some teachers saying that they might change exams to written projects.

I have to say, the teachers have adapted very fast and very well to this situation. They managed to keep the standards of their classes, and even through a screen they are able to get our attention. I really enjoy classes now, even more than before, it is really nice to attend my courses from the comfort of my bed and my pajamas. The fact that I don't have to wake up 1 hour and a half before class, I can do it 5 minutes before is great. If I could choose to, I would of course prefer actually having to leave my house.

Since all my classes' attendance is mandatory, the ongoing evaluation continues online even though many other Erasmus students decided to go home. Through an online platform called eGela (it's the same as Coospace at METU), we join a session created by the teacher, and we use the cameras and microphones to talk to each other.

This online part of the platform was created before the corona virus outbreak, so the school was able to change in a day, as soon as the new regulations were decided. It's also useful that the teachers can share their screens, so for example in my class called History of Cinema, we are able to watch the movies together. All in all, it's a really professional solution, easy to use, easy to access. I am very surprised by how well this works out.

What I don't like about this whole situation is that teachers now give us a lot more work, which is somewhat understandable since they know that we are not really doing other things, but these courses are already difficult, I would appreciate it if they gave us a break during a pandemic. I know I am not the only one who feels this way.

Since many of the Erasmus students had to go home, (either ordered by their universities, either asked by their families) I will probably have my exams online as well. This is an unusual situation for everybody, but I feel like we have adapted well, there should be no problem with that either.