

Erasmus Blog Entry



First let me introduce myself: I am Regina, and I invite you on a trip with me, a trip that I've been waiting for for a long time. I'm spending my erasmus semester in Poland, and this choice was not completely random: I've actually been here before as an erasmus student during my BA studies, and ever since the day I left I felt a strong desire to come back and continue this story right where it ended. This is the charm of erasmus: you feel like you are thrown into deep water at first but turns out it's an adventure that you will not want to end. And luckily, you don't have to: erasmus comes with tons of new friendships, connections and experiences that will benefit you even after you came home! But not so fast, I want to show you how's it at the beggining of the journey.

Packing. The word itself sounds like a swearword to me right now, but I managed to finally close the luggage – after a lot of pushing and wrestling of course, but it was all done! The thrill I felt on the train was just the same as the first time, even though between two slovakian cities I traveled with an old guy who told nostalgic stories about his successful goulash business back in the 70's: blessings of the euronight trainride I say. I was confident when I arrived, but I remember two years ago when I frist took off the train I looked around and understood nothing, and sure it was a great puzzle to solve, but eventually I got to my dormitory where I had to communicate in english for the first time. Warning to all of you considering poland: it's more likely than not that the older generation will not speak fluent english, but on the other hand, by the end of the semester you will be unbeatable in the tablegame Activity. Always concentrate on the positive things!

BEST GAME OF ACTIVITY:

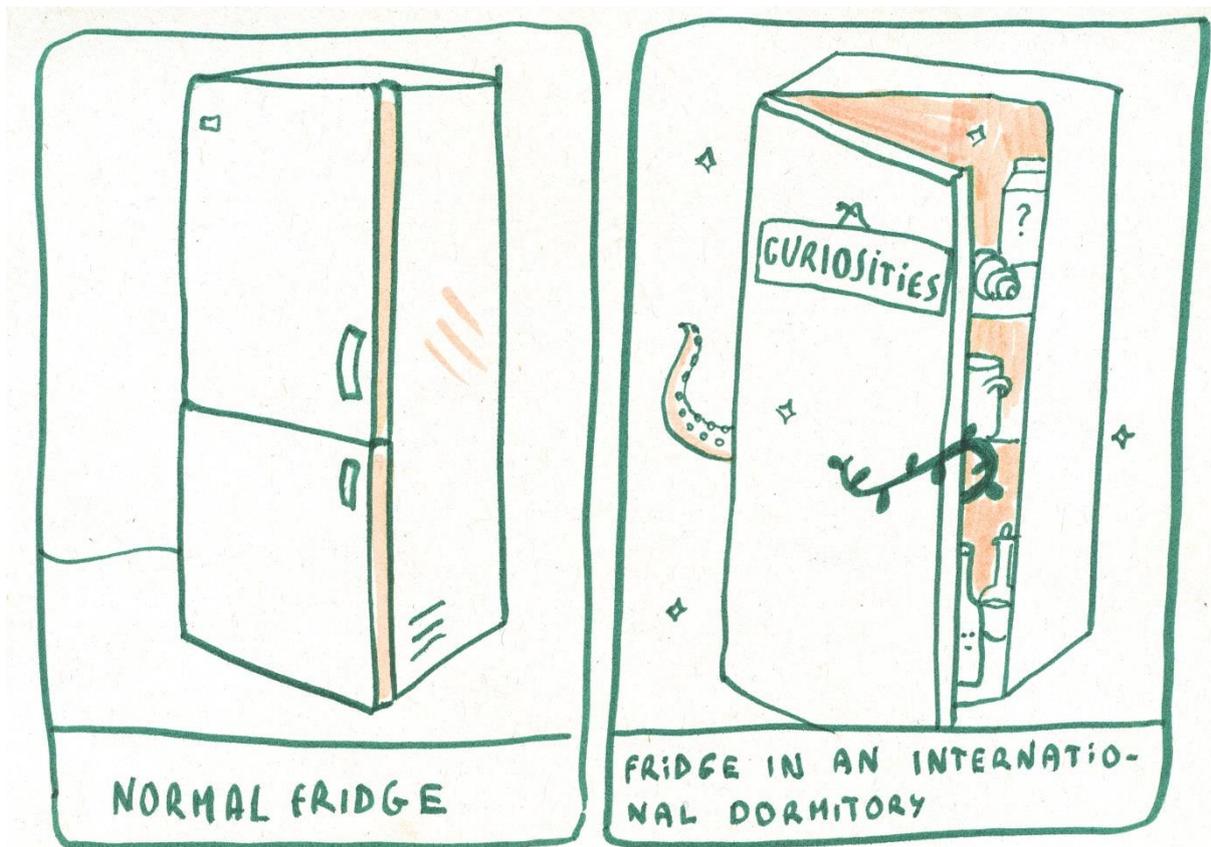
ARRIVING AT THE DORM AT FIVE AM AND DESPERATELY TRYING TO EXPLAIN WHO YOU ARE AND WHAT YOU WANT.



Apart from the jokes, I felt really happy as soon as I saw the city at daylight. Wrocław is a cosy city, easily walkable and is indeed very picturesque, but also it has a significant amount of universities and known for its young population. Okay, I don't really want to sound like a typical tour guide, but this is actually practical information when you are looking for an ideal host city – a lot of cities offer a different experience when you visit as a tourist and when you actually live in them. Wrocław is its own kind of beautiful and it can be very inspiring for artists; during my first weeks I've been to more than a few exhibitions and it is super nice to see that here art is the part of the everyday life of people.



Since there are so many universities, the student life is also a thing that's worth mentioning. I moved into an international dormitory, and I have to say that by the end of the semester you will be able to do impressions of countless accents, learn all the cool exotic recipes, and know all the things about nations that you couldn't learn from textbooks. Me any my roommates – Hannah from Ukraine and Lan from Korea – plan on doing an international cuisine day soon, so I hope they are prepared for the töltött káposzta (stuffed cabbage) because hungarian dishes are not compatible with the trendy diets;) Talking about cuisine, with the local erasmus community I went to try some traditional polish dishes – amazing excuse to dine like it's christmas if you ask me! Polish people sure know how to cook, so if you decide on coming to poland pizza will most probably not be your number one priority.



The erasmus community here is especially lovely, there are students from a great variety of countries such as Lithuania, Ireland, Romania, Mongolia, Korea and so on. We never run out of topic because there are so many things to know about all these cultures, so it's fun to meet and have a *pačzek* (heavenly polish donut) after classes. Speaking of which, I've just had my graphic design classes begun this week with the end of the selection procedures.

And what are the selection procedures? Here at the Eugeniusz Geppert Academy exchange students have to apply to classes in the form of a job interview: you are expected to present your portfolio and reason why do you wish to join the specific studios. In my opinion this is an amazing system because it gives you practice in self-representation and confident speaking, also it helps the effective communication between student and teacher and they also provide the opportunity to choose personalised tasks. However this is a detailed topic, and I will dedicate a practical information-introduction entry to the school system and the faculties themselves for you to see how things actually go here.

For now the first weeks were all about getting familiar with the place and each other, which I very much enjoy to do – and to say goodbye I offer you one last piece of quirky comic and a mini photo gallery of the city.

See you at the next entry, coming soon ☺

Regi



THE JOY OF TEACHING YOUR NEW FRIENDS WEIRD HUNGARIAN LETTERS.







