



I choose this university in Austria to do my Erasmus+ experience given that I met a professor from that university at the Sound engineers fair in Cologne - Germany. He gave me some information about the European Semester Project that they do for the international media students and I really liked it, so I started with all the paperwork I had to do to start my journey in the winter semester 2017 in Austria.

The whole process was very easygoing given that Ms. Cornelia Mayr from the International Office in St. Pölten was all the time very nice and helpful and she answered to all my questions very quick, which was amazing. The accommodation was also very easy given that they have 2 student residencies 5 min. away from the university and the whole process of getting a room gets done through Ms. Mayr also. All other information and the chance to meet the people that are going to be studying with you and so on is made through facebook. There's a Facebook group in which I could read some suggestions about how the city is, see some pictures and get a better idea about how the student life is over there from former Erasmus students from the uni. (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/284609344927328/>)

Given that there's no extra roaming charges for EU tel lines, I was able to keep my german cel. Number and didn't have to pay for anything extra. I was also able to keep on paying for my rent using my german bank account through internet, all though we also could pay in cash if we wanted or open an Austrian bank account for free and use it over there. One of the topics of the introduction week at the university was going to the bank all together and opening the Austrian bank

account, which gives you the chance to get also a discount card for the trains in Austria so that you can save some money for your trips to different cities.

The experience being part of the European Project Semester (EPS) was very interesting. We got divided in 2 groups, the Audio Visual Group, which consisted of 8 students from different countries that study Media related courses in their home-countries (like film production, 3d animation or sound and music production like me) and the other group was the Smart Engineering group and they were engineers and it students. None of us really had normal lectures with the rest of the students from the university, but we had supportive lectures to help us develop the main project that was assigned to us at the beginning of the semester (reason why we didn't have any exams at the end of the semester, the presentation of our project and the project itself was how we got our note) I got to be able to be the leader of the AudioVisual group from the EPS, and given that I had to work with a lot of different people from different countries, that spoke many different languages and had different main skills, I was able to develop a lot of new skills for my professional life and I also feel that I grew a lot as a person thanks to them. We also had english course together to improve our skills throughout the semester and for the ones who came from Germany they arranged some courses in german with regular Austrian students instead of the German course that the other Erasmus students had to take. For this extra class which was "Sound Design" and was divided in two parts we had to take regular classes and do 3 extra mini projects: make a sound design for a written text out of sounds that we recorded from a piano, do an interview with a lot of noise and edit it and record an introduction text for our main Project Semester (EPS). Everything at the university was very interesting and very organized, but most of the info, extra courses, university platform, uni email etc. was in German, reason why it was very easy for me to find my way through everything, but some of my colleges had some troubles finding handling everything on their own, which wasn't so cool.

During the free time that we had, we went to the lake, met at the party room in the student residencies to have a chat and drink something and quite often the International Student Network from the university planed activities for us like trips to different cities (in Austria and outside Austria also), getting together for

the Winter Market or to have dinner and I also had the possibility to plan an event which was financed by the University, that was a Christmas Dinner. We had an amazing time and we all got very close to each other.

I can only recommend to take the risk and go for it, and I would love to do it again in the future in a new country. I felt in love with Austria, their people, their culture and their accent, and as a Colombian girl I feel very honored that the university gave me the opportunity to enjoy this life time experience.

