



My name is Jurgita, I am from Lithuania, I have recently turned 21 years of age, my interests include cultural knowledge, I like going to museums and on hiking trips to get to know certain areas. In my home university I study Law which already has benefited me greatly even though I am in my second year.

1. What made you want to study abroad and how did you choose the Universitat de Girona?

Spain always seemed magnetic to me, something always has attracted me to travel to it. At first when Erasmus announced available locations where I could study, it didn't include Girona, it was either Portugal, Belgium or Poland. Seeing as Poland was very close to home and with Belgium, I've heard that it was very expensive to live there I decided to go to Portugal, however as weeks passed I received an answer that there was no longer a place left in Portugal, however Universitat de Girona offered my friend and I a spot to study for 5 months and I was so grateful such opportunity made its way, I happily took it and I didn't regret it one bit.

I was also ecstatic because I knew that Universitat de Girona offered trips around Catalonia and I was very excited to travel to Barcelona with the Erasmus group. This is where my interest for museums really shined, I was very happy to visit Museu d'Història de Catalunya in Barcelona, for me it was very interesting.

2. What did you pack that you definitely didn't need?

I definitely packed everything I needed, that extra pair of socks came in really handy

3. How were classes different at the Universitat de Girona from classes in your home university?

Time spent feels the most different in both institutions. In my home university, there are classes for 45 minutes and 10 minute break each, but in Universitat de Girona the classes were 75 minutes each and only a break every hour and a half. It was odd at first, but I got used to it pretty quickly and coming back home became odd how everyone started to ask the professors for breaks while I just was listening to what was lectured to me.

I have also noticed that the classes in UdG were much more interactive and visually representative, the lecturers would provide me with videos and articles, not to mention we would have group sessions to talk about the subjects and assignments we written as a whole, where as in my home university every work included more theory and assignments are more based on individuality and how I can work by myself.

4. What is the weirdest thing you ate and what kind of food did you miss?

There wasn't anything weird to me, for me Catalan food had already been explained to me by my own family. I already knew that Mediterranean cuisine involved a lot of seafood, I did not have any problems with it and I really miss a lot of Catalan cuisine that I have tasted during my time in Girona.

Paella is a dish that I really miss, we have nothing alike in Lithuania and I would love to have a plate of it again.

5. What was the most surprising thing you did or saw?

It was surprising for me to witness how many steps there really were on the Girona walls, climbing them the first time took the best of me, but as time passed I would spend a lot of time on one of the towers watching the sunset with my fellow Erasmus friends. Seeing how the sun went down behind the mountains was extraordinarily beautiful to me.

6. What was the most common thing people asked you about where you are from?

People would usually ask me what native language I speak or they would already assume that my native language is Russian or that *it's what I can speak as my second language*. I do not blame anyone for this, I realized that the knowledge on other countries could be outdated and it encouraged me to talk a lot more about my own country. I took the questions with the best attitude possible and eventually I liked answering them, because it was the curiosity from people around me. I was very happy to inform them about the history of Lithuania.

7. What was the hardest adjustment you had to make?

Every adjustment was difficult, but as challenging as it was, I signed up for it from the start. The differences between Catalan, Spanish and Lithuanian cuisines and cultures was a reset for me, but eventually I managed it and there was nothing really that hard.

8. What did you learn about your own culture by living in another one?



I learned that people in Catalonia are much more outgoing in the evening than they are in the afternoon. For Lithuanians every bit of sun is lovely no matter how hot it is, so we would go out in mornings and afternoons, spend the evening at home, but I've noticed that the population of Girona doesn't like sitting outside or going out throughout the day. I have noticed that a lot of families, which have their own small children go out to parks and the town in the evening, for me it as a bit odd, considering when I was a small child the evening was time for bed, but what I saw was heartwarming. Girona definitely felt more alive in the evening when the sun has set already.

9. Would you recommend your fellow students to participate in a study abroad experience at the Universitat de Girona? Why? What advice would you give them?

I definitely would recommend anyone to study abroad in UdG, mostly because studying is the best way to see how everything works in another country, you see a lot more things and you stay there for a bigger time period. UdG was always very informative when any events were happening and the whole study program was really interactive.

My best advice I could give to them is to be more outgoing and open with yourself, the first two months I took some time to adjust on how everyone was treating me and I missed out a lot, so I would definitely recommend everyone to be more confident with themselves and have the best time possible.