

# Erasmus Internship Experience Report

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Neptun code: J8EPUV  
Sending institution: Corvinus University of Budapest, HUNGARY  
Receiving organization: Institute for Ethnic Studies (Inštitut za narodnostna vprašanja), SLOVENIA  
Internship period: 20 March 2019 – 31 May 2019

## Interning in IES

One year ago, I gained my interest in ethnic studies when I did my core course on diversity management. One year later, I got back in touch with one of the travelling lecturers, who then became my supervisor as he so kindly accepted me as an intern in the Institute for Ethnic Studies (Inštitut za narodnostna vprašanja) in Ljubljana, Slovenia. I gratefully appreciate it as the Institute provided me an opportunity to acquire hands-on experience in doing research on the marginalized community and equip myself with better cultural awareness.

To a great extent, my internship would not be that successful without the help of my supervisor, the director of the Institute, as well as the supporting staff, who always gave swift responses and warm reminders to me, and would just welcome any questions when I need help.

## As a Budget Traveller

As always, my travel was a budget one. The cheapest choice to travel between Budapest to Ljubljana was by train, which cost me 15 euros for a one-way ride. Other budget options include for example Flixbus, but its fare varies quite a lot. In my case, budget travelling on train was fairly pleasant as it was not the peak season.

Prices in Slovenia are cheaper than the Euro Zone average, but still more expensive than Hungary. This observation applies to most expenditures in Ljubljana, for example groceries, food, rent, bills and so on. As a student, there is a range of discounts I could get in Ljubljana. For

Student meal at maxi: only 3 euros for the whole set lunch – a truly 'fulfilling' experience.



I rented this shared accommodation with a balcony view with two other persons. Rent was 167 euro and bills were 60-70 euros.



me, this included public transport, which cost me 20 euros for a month's public transport in the city. Another student benefit was the meal subsidy, which provided me certain amount of subsidy on monthly basis. Making good use of these two student benefits helped me keep a good budget throughout my stay.

## Accommodation and stuff

As an international student, my experience in finding accommodation in Ljubljana was quite a different one from Budapest. In most of my encounters in Ljubljana, the landlord or landlady would want to see the potential tenants in person before they decided to rent the flat or the room out. The meeting was also an opportunity for them understand you more as a

person. On the bright side, it would be nice to know each other's expectations before the deal is made, and you could also know your potential roommates or flatmates better before moving in. However, on the downside, that would mean you will need to stay in a hostel for a few nights before you could settle down.

Other aspects of life were generally fine in Ljubljana. As a capital city, its transport network is well established. In fact, given its size, getting around was quite convenient even by just walking or biking in its compact infrastructure. Besides, most people can handle English conversation at ease and were very eager to give a friendly helping hand. This made life in a foreign country much easier.

## More visits and travelling

Out of a busy schedule, I squeezed some free time for some visits inside and outside of Ljubljana. Apart from the museums and churches, the Ljubljana Castle (Ljubljanski grad) is a landmark for all in the

Lovely scenery of Lake Bled and the Bled Island





city centre. Not only is it a public space for all, the museums there also exhibit the history of the Slovenia people. In addition, a day trip to Lake Bled is also recommended for natural scenery lovers. My only complaint was that I did not have enough time to go to a few more spots, and Croatia is also just at a close travel distance for travel.

The plaza in Ljubljana Castle, popular for everyone (top left); May day bonfire night (bottom left); cityscape of Ljubljana (bottom right)

