

Testimonials 2023



Brescia Italy





Erasmus opened my eyes to how other people live. I have learned that in Italy people are very politically focused. From people trying to get signatures on a Saturday night, football matches and the divide between the different fans, and how different music can impact someone's feelings.

Working and living in Italy has improved my communications skills, Previously not speaking any Italian, now knowing a good few words and phrases.

I have been away from home, but not for 3 weeks where I would have to live independently, It opened my eyes to how people live, for the most part cooking, doing laundry and while working was a new experience for me.

I was lucky as I had a job in my area of interest, which highlighted to me that I really do like that specific area, but it also give me experience in the industry which will hopefully help me in the future when applying for jobs.



Overall, the Erasmus was a positive experience. The best part of the experience for me, was living independently abroad, the social aspect both with classmates and natives, looking after myself and being able to explore and understand a new culture and city as this matched my character and desire to travel.

The experience improved a vast range of practical skills, the primary one being Excel. Profiling companies required us to use Excel to record information. As a result, this enhanced my knowledge of Excel especially with regards to formatting, inputting of information, organisation and many other tools included in Excel. Not only that, profiling companies, required heavy research and therefore I was able to better my ability to research which I will put to good use throughout my academic career. Practical real-life skills were also enhanced with regards to cooking, laundry punctuality and professionalism. Technical skills such as communication, organisation and determination were enhanced, especially when communicating through the language barrier and with colleagues, natives, organising the work I had done and meeting goals when work got hard.

Italy as a culture was one of the best I've experienced. From my time there, I noticed they were very political and stood heavy on their views. Not only that I found Italian people to be very dedicated to their studies and learning other languages. They were very social and showed great appreciation for their architecture and foreign guests visiting their country and just their country as a whole. By being in a foreign country for this amount of time I was able to pick up on a few words for example, uscita (exit), grazie (thank you). Further, their transport was much better than that of Ireland, especially the metro.

This experience thought me how to be independent, how to embrace new cultures, to be open to constructive criticism, to listen, vocabulary of a new language and most importantly what life would be like in a business setting, enhancing my real-life experience as I progress in my academic and professional career.



During my time with Erasmus, I greatly increased my cultural awareness, I learned a lot about Italian culture and the daily life of an Italian person, I tried lots of new and interesting foods and I got to witness some incredible sites of historical and cultural significance.

I gained a lot of real-life experience also as it was my first time living away from parents meaning I had to cook, clean, wash clothes, and wake myself up in the morning. This was a great learning experience for me and showed me that I am very capable of living away from home.

My technical and practical skills definitely improved vastly also. I used problem solving skills daily in the workplace and greatly improved my efficiency and proficiency at using Microsoft Excel and Word. The speed of my typing greatly improved also.

The best part of the experience was definitely getting to go out and see so many amazing places such as Brescia, Milan, Venice, Lake Garda and Verona. All of these places were incredibly interesting and breathtakingly beautiful in their own right.



I really enjoyed my experience doing Erasmus in Brescia. It made me aware of how different people live in Italy in comparison to Ireland. For example, while we were wearing shorts and t shirts, the locals were wearing big jackets as if it was cold and the local area didn't really have any small local shops, they instead just had one big shop in every area, which is completely different to Ireland.

It was also extremely easy to get around Brescia, using the metro, which isn't in Ireland. My communication skills improved during my placement, this was due to me working with someone else and whenever I had problems, I would ask questions or discuss them with who I was working with, language wise, I only picked up a few words of Italian.

This trip definitely also opened my eyes to the prospect of living abroad and by myself in general, I would definitely be more open to living abroad than I was before as I enjoyed the feeling of independence and the feeling of being away from Ireland, which surprised me. Since the work I was doing was primarily done on the computers, my understanding and efficiency using tools such as Excel increased heavily. The main practical skills I improved on during my placement, was my Communication skills, ability to work in a team, Problem solving, my punctuality and my computer skills. These are all extremely important skills to have in any workplace, and I am delighted that I got to improve on them during this placement.

My best experience during the placement, was just learning the importance of the administration side of business and just travelling around Italy independently. I would be more than happy to do it again in the future and would jump at the opportunity.

My cultural awareness has improved as I lived in a foreign country and experienced the language, working life, people, food and many famous landmarks that I once wished I got a chance to see.

Communication skills were somewhat improved as a result of the placement. Basic Italian such as manners and greeting people got me over the line and was enough to do well overall. I wish I spent more time beforehand studying the language or even got provided with some classes as a group before our trip.

Real life experience was amazing as I got an insight into a potential career, I can see myself in, in the future. I also got to see places such as Milan, Venice, Verona, Lake Como, San Siro and Brescia.

Technical skills such as research skills were improved. My role in the workplace was research heavy, having to find potential clients for the business so this was crucial. Methods and techniques were developed. Organisational skills, punctuality and how to present yourself in a real-life business environment was improved too.

Excel skills were improved and making my work more organised and easy on the eye. I used SMG's data server SYNCRO which was what we used to input our found companies.

The best part was having experience living independently, working and expanding my knowledge in this sector, travelling, maturing as a person and getting a taster of what it is like to work abroad.



I think during this experience I improved a lot of my skills. Like my communication skills I learnt how to communicate with someone who doesn't speak the same language as me. I improved my organisational skills by making sure I brought in my laptop and laptop charger everyday, and remembering my lunch. I also had to make sure I was organised in my work and got a good amount of work done each day. My social skills improved because I had to learn how to communicate with people that I didn't know and that didn't know me, I had to have the confidence to order in restaurants where people did not speak the same language as me.

I learnt how to budget my money so that I would have enough to spend on groceries and cleaning products. I gained more independence instead of being dependent on my family. I was in charge of keeping my room clean and cleaning up after myself.

I improved my computer skills on Excel and improved my typing skills also. Since the experience I am a lot quicker at typing and my knowledge on Excel has grown.





Erasmus has increased my cultural awareness as I had to learn and adapt to Italian culture while I was there. The food and groceries were all different to Ireland, so I had to try new things and do research. Also, the way people dress in Italy was different to Ireland as nobody wore tracksuits only jeans and jackets.

My job was in a Radio Station so verbal communication was key. I was thrown in the deep end as nobody knew English so without realising, I was picking up more and more Italian as I was surrounded by it all day in work. In work I improved on a lot of the skills we had been using in college like Excel and Word. I was entering data and researching for my job and translating English to Italian as I had the best understanding of English in the office. Both my technical and practical skills improved while I was in Italy. The best part of the experience was seeing all of northern Italy on our days off work. It was incredible and an experience I'll remember. The most difficult part was trying to understand when majority of people did not speak any English. However, after a week or two it was easily picked up and I was able to develop a great friendship with work colleagues.

The whole experience was amazing and unforgettable, and I would highly encourage others to participate should the opportunity arise for them.