



IROMAG

Edition for incoming students



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Mostar

By IROUNMO

Before choosing Mostar as your Erasmus destination, here are some things you should know.



- Mostar is the fifth largest city in the country
- It is situated on 2 rivers: Neretva and Radobolja
- Mostar was named after the bridge keepers (Mostari) who in medieval times guarded the Stari Most (Old Bridge)
- This year 455. traditional jumps from the Old Bridge will be held
- The oldest single arch stone bridge in Mostar Kriva ćuprija was built in 1558 (Crooked bridge) and was a test before the major construction of the Stari Most
- The Old Bridge (Stari Most) spans 28.7 meters (94 feet) of the Neretva river, 21 meters (69 feet) above the summer water level.
- Stari Most and the area of the Old Town are under UNESCO protection since 2005
- There are mosques, an Orthodox and a Catholic church in Mostar
- Mostar is the sunniest city in the country with an average of 2291 solar hours a year
- There are 2 football clubs in the city: Velež and Zrinjski



Interested in discovering more?

You are more than welcome here and we'll gladly help you to have the best Erasmus experience.

UNMO Buddy

By IROUNMO

UNMO Buddy is a person/student of Dzemal Bijedic University of Mostar who has volunteered to assist the incoming students with adjusting to life in Mostar. Buddy will help the incoming students by answering all his/her inquiries. Buddy has a task to introduce an incoming student to academic life and to include the student into all extracurricular activities offered at the University. Just by writing to iro.student@unmo.ba students can get information about everything they want to know. Buddy will also, on request, assist students to find accommodation. Buddy will help them with documents for the temporary residence. The buddies are the best source of information in terms of how to have a good time in Mostar, what places to see and where to go. Once they arrive, students are included into the closed Facebook group UNMO Buddy System. The Facebook group helps to facilitate important notifications about their stay at UNMO and Mostar.



Turkey: traditions and food

By Seyma Kok



Being a country of traditions, Turkey has numerous special customs. Waking up early on Eid days, wearing new clothes bought specifically for the feast, and visiting relatives are among the most important. Also, during Eid visits, the younger ones go to their elders and kiss their hands.

The traditional motifs of the Turks appear in weddings as well. For example, tying a red belt (Maidenhood Belt) around the waist of the bride (usually a brother) before she leaves her father's house, the groom cannot see the bride before the wedding, the groom comes for the bride, not getting a tip for opening the door that will allow the bride to leave her house and many more. Moreover, it is considered bad luck to have a wedding between the religious holidays of the Turks, Eid-al-Fitr, and Eid-al-Adha, and the wedding dates never coincide with these two holidays. (For the ones who are really interested in wedding traditions, I can advise you to search more about Henna night and asking a hand in the marriage.)

The last tradition that I want to mention is birth. After having excessive pressure from their families about having a child, the newborn child is usually named after his grandfather or one of the family elders by their parents. While naming the newborn child, the adhan is read in one ear and the name is said three times in the other ear. Thus, the name of the newborn baby is given.

Now let's switch to the most fun part, food! Apart from the most well-known traditional Turkish foods like Kebap, Baklava, Lahmacun, and Döner, I prefer to give you a perfect one-day meal menu. To start the day, menemen is an indispensable classic for the breakfast. After snacking with Turkish coffee and lokum, it is time for dinner. Manti and garlic yogurt topped with tomato paste sauce would be the best choice. For dessert, Künefe is the perfect dual of cheese and sugar on the planet, and always choose Turkish tea with it to reach the peak for the day. Bon Appetit!



Study abroad: Freemovers

By IROUNMO

You want to go abroad, but your university does not have a partnership with the university of your dreams? There is no problem! You can always apply to a university for doing an exchange as a free mover.

An independent exchange is an alternative to organized exchanges and has the advantage - you have complete freedom of choosing the destination. All students are welcome to apply for admission to other universities. A Freemover enrollment makes sense if you have sufficient financial means to fund your study abroad, if you want to study abroad, but the existing exchange programs don't cover your wishes or if you haven't been accepted in other exchange programs.

Who can apply?

- 1.You should be enrolled at a university: For some universities, it is mandatory to be inscribed in a university at the time, but don't worry, if you are not a student, there are as well other options where you could apply as a non-student if you want to expand your knowledge about a subject but are not willing to commit to a whole Bachelor Degree
- 2.Some universities require a language sufficiency, but there are plenty of options to study in English
- 3.You can go abroad for research at a host institution or as a student
- 4.Some countries require you to be an EU/ EAA citizen
- 5.Some universities ask for sufficient funds to finance your semester(s) abroad

The organization Wearefreemovers provides a detailed guide with information about universities in 52 countries where you can apply as a Freemover

<https://www.wearefreemovers.com/country-guides/>



Are you interested? Here is an example!

The University of Marburg in Germany accepts applications of Freemovers as long as you are enrolled at your home university and you are not participating in other exchange programs at the time. But don't worry, the university has eight programs in English in the areas of Economics, North American Studies, and Peace and Conflict Studies. If you want to participate in other programs that are not in the mentioned areas, you would have to prove a B2 German sufficiency in order to complete your semester(s) successfully.



Meet our Guests!

Staff abroad

By dr Marek Smulczyk

True teachers are those who use themselves as bridges over which they invite their students to cross; then, having facilitated their crossing, joyfully collapse, encouraging them to create their own. (Nikos Kazantzakis)

I chose this quote by, because my visit at the Dzemal Bijedic University of Mostar showed me that a beautiful bridge can be built not only between the two banks of the river, but also between people.

I am very happy that I had the opportunity to visit the Faculty of Education UNMO as a visiting professor under the Erasmus mobility program.

My visit took place in January 2020, was organized with the support of Wszechnica Polska University in Warsaw. Our university, which has an agreement with the Dzemal Bijedic University of Mostar, hence not only staff but also students can benefit from the exchange program. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of this amazing opportunity.

Conducting classes in another country is always a challenge. Dzemal Bijedic University of Mostar received me very warmly. Over the past few days, I have been accompanied by curiosity, openness, reflection, surprise, joy and frosty mornings. I strongly support everyone in Bosnia who believes in education and change and wants to develop this beautiful country!



Meet our Guests!

Students abroad

By IROUNMO

Hello, my name is Jose Rafael Català Calatayud. I am a student of the double degree of Primary Education and Physical Activity and Sport Sciences. Last semester I had the rewarding experience of going on Erasmus to Bosnia-Herzegovina, specifically in the town of Mostar. At first, the idea of going to a place far from home was a bit complicated for me, since I was very attached to my town and my university environment. However, this opportunity was possible thanks to a friend, Victor Calvet Gadea, with whom I ended up doing the Erasmus.

Honestly, Victor was the one that decided to enroll me, but I was doubtful of going as I wasn't sure I was going to get my parents' approval. Besides, I used to ask myself: will I fit in? Will I enjoy my stay? Is it worth it? But, after talking to some of the teachers, at the Teacher Training College in Godella, they encouraged me to do it.

Before the departure date, we had an endless list of things to do like paperwork, PCRs, looking for an apartment, solving the Learning Agreement, etc. So, the months before starting a new course flew by.

September arrived. We left Barcelona towards Dubrovnik (Croatia) to take the bus the next day to Mostar (Bosnia-Herzegovina). Once in Dubrovnik, we felt strange, as if we were famous because the cabs crowded us, people were very kind to us, etc. Due to the pandemic we are experiencing, tourism was severely affected in all countries of the world, including Mostar. The next day, we had a long trip to Mostar ahead of us. On the bus, we met a girl, Marija Petrović, who helped us during our journey, as we did not speak the language and weren't able to communicate with the borderline police.



As soon as we arrived in Mostar, we were accommodated with anything we needed. From the ESN group and the University “Džemal Bijedić”, we were picked up by Miran Jusufovic, Merima Bećirović, Lejla Nametak, and many more, who took us home and showed us around. I felt very welcomed by the people and by their culture. If I had to compare Spain with Bosnia and Herzegovina I would say that the only difference there is the language. Therefore, we felt at home.



Since we were in a strange year due to Covid-19, we were only three Erasmus students that went to Mostar, as if it was a joke, two Spanish and one Turkish (Ali). In addition, we made other local friends who opened the doors of their homes and let us go deeper into their hometown. We met people from France and Spain like the students of the international baccalaureate.



In addition, we were studying at the “Dzemal Bjedic” University of Mostar where our coordinator Mirsada Behram, together with Dalila Spahic, did not stop writing to us and took care of us, they seemed to be our mentors. Also, the treatment we had with the teachers was excellent, both on a personal and teaching level. We felt very welcome in the classrooms, and this allowed us to really discover what sport is all about. Despite the difficulties with English, which we Spaniards usually have, our teachers received us with open arms, helping us with anything we needed. It was a pleasure to have met them.



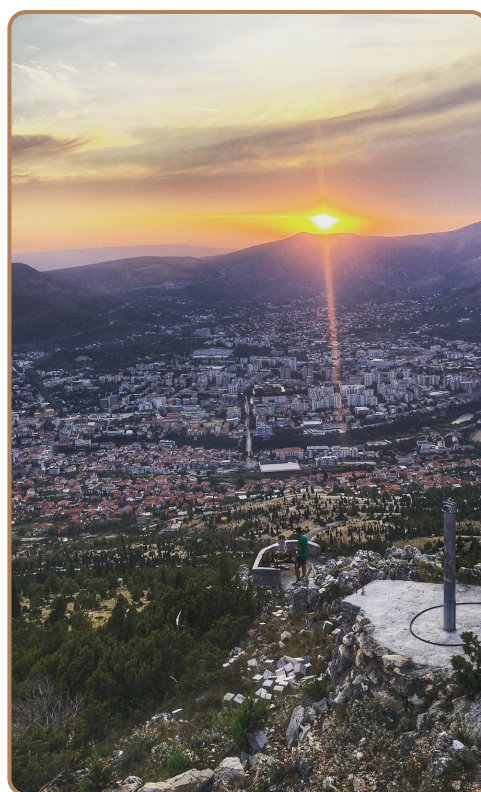
There, we found a house near the Old Town and near the Neretva river, one of the best areas to live in Mostar. The location was perfect to move around the city. The first night we arrived, we visited the bridge "Stari Most", one of my favourite places and, besides, it is wonderful to sit there at night, listen to the Neretva river and contemplate everything around you. Honestly, it made me feel at home, sitting there talking with the local people under that shelter, reminded me of where I come from. There are many places in Mostar such as the "Crooked Bridge" over the Radobolja river, the Španski trg/ Španjolski trg (Spanish square) emblematic corner in Mostar for the help offered by the Spanish army with the blue helmets militia. Mostar is a small but charming city; because of its people, its nature, its culture, and not only Mostar but all Bosnia and Herzegovina. While staying there we met Celia Jimenez, a professor at our university in Mostar. She is from Albacete and teaches Spanish. Together with her and Nina Blanchard, the French teacher, we explored the country. They were our travel companions to Blagaj (with its source of the Buena river, Vrelo Bune, the former capital of the county of Herzegovina), Vodopad Kravica (the impressive waterfalls of the Neretva river), Počitelj, Sarajevo (the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina), Trebinje, Zavala, the Jahorina mountain range (Olympic mountain range), Konjic, Jablanica. At Jablanica, we ate the best lamb and visited the fallen bridge, destroyed by the war, among many other places that our friends recommended us.





As you can see, my Erasmus was not much about partying, it was about getting to know the whole former Yugoslavia. I would have liked to have been able to travel to more places from Bosnia and Herzegovina, but because of Covid-19, it was very complicated. I do not regret my Erasmus at all, quite the contrary. First of all, I never thought I could have done what I did (study outside Spain). Secondly, study in English very technical subjects concerning their content in the field of science and last but not least, I met and made friends from different cultures and religions.

Finally, as an anecdote, among many others, we had the pleasure to appear in the program "Españoles por el Mundo" of RTVE and present the beauty of Mostar to all viewers. In the program, we made known everything mentioned above to attract people to this city that makes people feel at home.



In my opinion, I recommend that all university students should do Erasmus at least once in a lifetime, to any destination, but in particular, I recommend Bosnia and Herzegovina, since that little piece of land ended up being a part of me.

The truth is that this experience has only just begun. It has never ended since I am still in contact with my Bosnian friends and, I did not say goodbye to them, I just said see you later.



Bosnian Dictionary

One
Two
Three
Four
Five
Six
Seven
Eight
Nine
Ten

Jedan
Dva
Tri
Četiri
Pet
Šest
Sedam
Osam
Devet
Deset