

Three tips about Erasmus

Date: 17th March 2021

Today we want to offer you 3 #tips to enjoy the Erasmus experience to the fullest even in these unpredictable times:

1. Ask questions

This is one of the most important things to do when you are abroad. Don't be afraid to ask, as everyone understands that this is all pretty new. Even before departure, whatever doubts you have, just ask your institution and they will guide you in the right way. Remember: there's no such thing as a stupid question!

2. Sharing is caring (for yourself)

If the thought of going away from home makes you feel lonely, you are not alone. Remember that you don't have to rely only on yourself, and you will find people that will help you in a time of need. Share your thoughts with your new colleagues, with professors or staff members.

3. Take a bit of home with you

Sometimes leaving can make you feel a little melancholy, but you will eventually get over it. It's okay to miss your dear one, but you'll come back with a lot of new things to tell. But besides filling your days with new experiences, there's nothing wrong with taking a little bit of your country, your home and your family with you. In the end, home is where your heart is.

Still worried about leaving right now? Reach out and we will give you all the support you'll need.

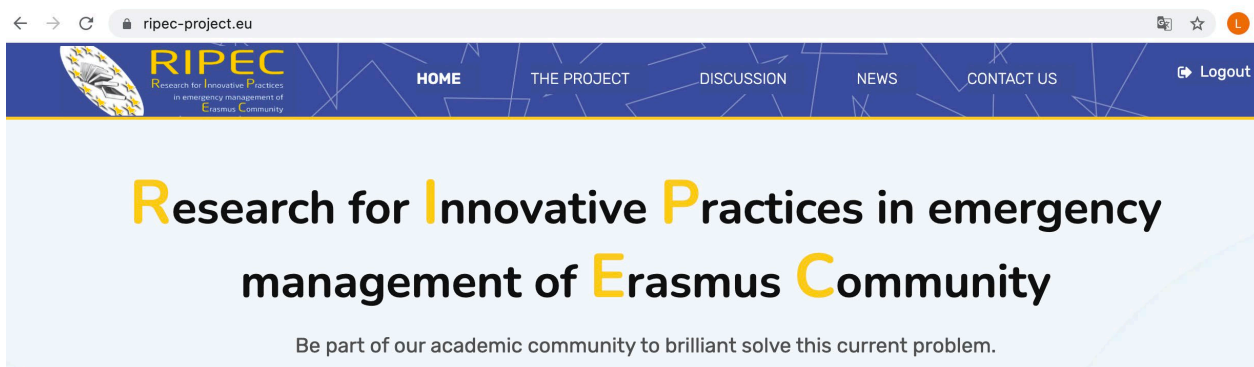


RIPEC Website

Date: 24th March 2021

We are happy to present the new RIPEC website! 🎉 Joining our community is super easy; once you're logged in, you can comment on posts, stay up to date on the latest news and exchange opinions with all the team's members.

Come join us here <https://www.ripec-project.eu/>



Spring Break

Date: 31st March 2021

The RIPEC Partnership wishes you all a happy Spring Break! May this short break be recharging and relaxing! 🌸



PSC Meeting

Date: 7th April 2021

RIPEC's PSC online meeting was held yesterday in order to decide how best to address upcoming mobility. In this time of uncertainty, the project aims at recognizing through research, debate and brainstorming shared problems and solutions, and adopt innovative methods and tools for dealing with emergency management in the framework of Erasmus mobility.

We all hope to experience all the great things about Erasmus again, but in the meantime, if you are part of a team involved in Erasmus+ projects or if you are experiencing some type of mobility, and want to share your experiences, as well as explore ours, please feel free to join the discussion on the RIPEC website here: <https://www.ripec-project.eu/discussions/>

Serena Saracino Award - UNITUS

Date: 14th April 2021

Today, we would like to shed light on a very interesting venture carried out by UniTO, the University of Turin. The Italian University has published a call for the "Serena Saracino" Award, in memory of Serena Saracino, an Erasmus student involved in the tragic accident in Tarragona on 20 March 2016.

The UniTO students can submit an artistic creative paper about the challenges that students may have to face during the Erasmus. You can find information pertaining to the original call here: <https://www.unito.it/.../erasmus.../premio-di-studio-serena>

The RIPEC team, in the full spirit of the project, wants to give the opportunity to all students to join the initiative in memory of the Italian student.

Our Consortium will select the best creative paper not eligible under the UniTO call, publish them on the RIPEC website and invite the best writers as testimonials in our project international events. You can submit your artistic creative paper to our email address ripec.eu@gmail.com

Share your creative ideas with us by May 20, 2021, at 12.00!

Q&A: Road to Barcelona - Letizia's experience

Date: 21st April 2021

Today we would like to share the interview of Letizia, an Italian student who chose to leave for Barcelona with the Erasmus program during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q: Hi Letizia, tell us something about you and your experience... in which university are you formally enrolled? Where did you choose to go? And why there?

A: Hi RIPEC team! I am Letizia and I am attending the ESADE Business School in Barcelona, for a Master of science. I left from Bocconi University in Milan at the end of September 2020.

I chose Barcelona because, first of all, is my favorite city, and also because ESADE is one of the most important Business School in Europe.

Q: Which type of documents did you have to fill out before living?

A: Bocconi Erasmus Programs council didn't ask me anything about COVID-19, I just had to fill out a release, in which I declared that I assumed any kind of responsibility. Instead, I had to make a sort of interview, where I had to explain why I want to go in Erasmus and what city was good for me. I had to make a list of my top 10 favorite cities/university, according to the partners of Bocconi.

Q: Why did you choose to leave despite the health emergency?

A: Choosing to leave was not a hard choice for me. I did not want to be limited by the COVID situation. I left and I knew that if something went wrong, I could have taken a plane and flew back to Italy. The reality we are living today is stressful and there is no certainty about how things will go later, so I decided to try because it always worth it.

Q: How did your university handle Erasmus during the pandemic?

A: The Spanish university welcomed me as an Erasmus student, because they were able to accommodate both foreign and Spanish students. Right now, my university here in Barcelona is open. We take lessons in class and we respect the anti-contagion rules, we take precautions and we respect social distancing. ESADE is a private university so it has the opportunity to stay open, but unfortunately many universities here are closed, especially the bigger ones.


Q: Would you do it again or would you wait?


A: Yes, absolutely! There was not a moment in which I told myself I shouldn't have done it. If you have the chance to leave, do it and don't look back. It will be the most important and great experience of your life!


How are you planning mobilities for future projects?

Date: 28th April 2021

 The new Erasmus + Program guide is out and deadlines are approaching!

 Are you planning to submit a Cooperation project? How are you planning the mobilities while building the application?

 Share your ideas with us on RIPEC website!

You can contribute to the discussion by posting your comments here: <https://www.ripec-project.eu/discussions/> 

#Visualization conference - WSKSIM

Date: 5th May 2021

Today, we would like to thank the Wyższa Szkoła Kultury Społecznej i Medialnej w Toruniu for giving us the opportunity to participate in the radio interview that was the introduction of the conference on the topic [#visualization](#) (Word - Image – Sound) that will be held online on may 11th by our polish partner.

At the conference, Lisa Lonati and Isabella Querci PhD, representing the RIPEC Consortium on behalf of Carolina Albasio, the project coordinator, will present an intervention with the title "Visualizing Erasmus: the case of RIPEC project and beyond", which was also mentioned in the radio interview.

We are happy to have participated and to continue our fruitful collaboration, in the full spirit of Erasmus.

You can hear our intervention on the topic translated to Polish at these links:

<https://wksim.edu.pl/rozmowy-niedokonczone-wizualizacja.../>

<https://www.radiomaryja.pl/.../rozmowy-niedokonczone.../>

Stay tuned for more exciting news!

Don't stop the Erasmus+ - Interview

Date: 12th May 2021

During the last year, the pandemic and the international health emergency nearly stopped the Erasmus+ programme.

In April 2020, the European Commission launched a survey to National Agencies, in which it turned out that among the 107.000 participants in the Erasmus+ programme, 45.000 students have continued the programme online, 23.500 students have suspended the programme and about 38.500 students have completely cancelled it.

In general, 80.000 students returned to their country and 27.000 remained abroad.

But the pandemic does not stop the desire for Erasmus+. Students, teachers and high-education staff are ready to leave as soon as possible. On the one hand, many of them are still waiting for the approval, but on the other hand, some were able to go abroad. In fact, several students and teachers have decided to leave for this new life-changing experience. However, those who choose to do it now are aware that their adventure may be influenced by restrictions and difficulties.

This is the case of Riccardo, a 24-year-old Italian student, who decided to take off for Rennes (France) last August.

He said: "The epidemiological situation in France is both very delicate and complex. France is currently [at the time of interview, ed.] in national confinement, and this is why the choice to leave was difficult. Nevertheless, I was very excited. I knew that I could still live the Erasmus experience despite the Covid-19 emergency situation. I just thought: 'This opportunity only knocks once. Grab it or you'll lose it'. And so I did."

You can read the complete interview at the following link: <https://www.bergamonews.it/.../in-partenza-per.../406203/>

Jet-lagged students

Date: 19th May 2021

Despite the pandemic, some students have not given up on the Erasmus+. They chose to follow online lessons and courses, even if they are a thousand miles away from the universities.

They are called the "Jet-Lagged Students": their alarm clock rings in the middle of the night, they have breakfast and then, they sit in front of a screen ready to start a new all-nighter, together with their classmates, be they American, Brazilian, Chinese or Russian.

What they have made is a really challenging choice and shows how hard was for students to renounce a trip that would have changed their lives. They joke about it, saying "some Redbull and

melatonin, everyone can make it", but the truth is that they, like everyone else, can't wait to leave. In the hope that it can be done as soon as possible, this is the best solution for the moment. If you want to read the full interview with a "Jet-Lagged Student", you can find it in Italian here: <https://www.lastampa.it/.../17/news/chi-sono-gli-studenti->

Back at it!

Date: 3rd June 2021

After the first round of submission and a short break, in order to recharge ourselves, we are back at it!

As you all know, the next deadlines are approaching fast, are you planning on submitting an application soon?

Share your thoughts with us on the RIPEC website here: <https://www.ripec-project.eu/discussions/>

Travel news

Date: 9th June 2021

On Friday the 4th the RIPEC PSC team has met online to brainstorm and take the stock of our obtained project results and of the ones that will come in the next months.

As we all know, the COVID 19 situation in Europe is luckily getting better everyday, so we are more than happy to announce that, at last, we will have the chance to meet in person in the beautiful city of Viterbo (IT) in July!

Exciting things are ahead, follow us to stay updated!

Post-COVID: are we at a crossroad?

Date: 16th June 2021

Although the situation appears to improve every week, the challenges raised by the health emergency will inevitably affect the future of Higher Education. Thus, the RIPEC team continues to work to identify the best innovative solutions to ensure everyone has an optimal Erasmus experience even in these changing times. Follow us to stay updated!

<https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php...>

Brexit and ERASMUS

Date: 23rd June 2021

GB Are you thinking of doing your Erasmus in the UK?

A lot of things have changed after the Brexit, but that doesn't mean you have to give up this opportunity!

The European Commission has released a document explaining the new procedures for visas needed to spend your time in the UK, as you can read here:

<http://www.erasmusplus.it/.../06/UK-visa-requirements.pdf>

Follow us for keeping updated and share this post with those who might be interested!

3rd TPM AGENDA

Date: 29th June 2021

We are pleased to share the Agenda of the third TPM meeting, which is organized and hosted by Università degli Studi della Tuscia - Viterbo, that will finally be held in presence! 🍷