

**Gasthochschule:** Singidunum Valjevo

**Studienfach:** International Business

**Zeitraum des Auslandssemesters:** Oktober – Dezember 2024

## **Erasmus+ Report: My Semester Abroad in Serbia**

As part of my dual studies program in Ravensburg and Munich, I had the opportunity to spend nearly three months in Serbia through the Erasmus+ program. Choosing Serbia was an easy decision—I wanted an experience that was different, exciting, and outside my usual comfort zone. What I discovered exceeded all my expectations.

### **People and Hospitality**

The highlight of my semester was, without a doubt, the people of Serbia. The hospitality and warmth I encountered were unparalleled. Locals went out of their way to make me feel welcome, and I formed genuine connections that I will treasure forever. A standout experience was attending a slava, a traditional Serbian feast celebrating a family's patron saint, thanks to my friend Teodora. The sense of community and generosity was truly inspiring.

### **Cultural Experiences**

My time in Serbia was filled with cultural immersion. I attended the Čvarci Festival, celebrating a unique Serbian delicacy, and spent many evenings in kafanas, enjoying traditional food, live music, and great company. Serbia's music scene, whether in festivals or casual settings, was a constant source of joy and cultural insight.

### **Travel and Exploration**

During my stay, I explored Serbia's vibrant cities, including Belgrade and Novi Sad, as well as parts of Croatia. Each destination offered something unique, from the historical and cultural landmarks of Belgrade to the charming streets of Novi Sad. My travels deepened my appreciation for the region and its diverse heritage.

### **Overcoming Challenges**

Language was a challenge at first, but it quickly turned into an opportunity for growth. With the help of my new friends, I learned basic Serbian phrases and had a lot of fun navigating the language. This experience reinforced the importance of adaptability and a positive attitude in overcoming barriers.

## **Reflections and Recommendations**

This semester abroad through Erasmus+ was an unforgettable experience that allowed me to grow both personally and professionally. The skills I gained, the friendships I formed, and the cultural understanding I developed are invaluable.

For anyone considering an Erasmus+ opportunity, my advice is simple: Go for it! This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that will expand your horizons and leave you with memories to last a lifetime.

I'm already planning my return to Serbia and exploring more of the Balkans. To anyone who hasn't explored this beautiful part of the world yet: you're missing out. Pack your bags—you won't regret it!

The Erasmus+ program not only allowed me to experience a new culture but also inspired a connection to this region.