

# ERASMUS+ STORIES



With the support of the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

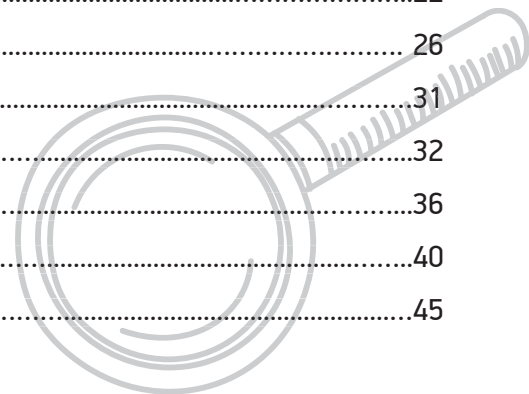


УНИВЕРЗИТЕТ У ПРИШТИНИ  
КОСОВСКА МИТРОВИЦА

**U V V VYSOKÁ ŠKOLA VÝTVARNÝCH**  
**V V F UMENÍ V BRATISLAVE**  
**V S V ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS**  
**V D D AND DESIGN IN BRATISLAVA**



Content .....	3
1. About the Erasmus+ project .....	5
2. Cooperation between AFAD and UPKM .....	7
3. Academy of Fine Arts in Bratislava, Slovakia.....	8
4. University of Pristina, Kosovska Mitrovica .....	12
5. Teaching Mobility .....	19
5.1. Ilona Nemeth .....	20
5.2. Ester Milentijevic .....	22
5.3. Ervin Catovic .....	26
6. Student Mobility .....	31
6.1. Djordje Stankovic .....	32
6.2. Dejan Filipovic .....	36
6.3. Dunja Veljkovic .....	40
7. Project results .....	45





The European Union's Erasmus+ programme is a funding scheme that supports activities in the fields of Education, Training, Youth and Sport.

The Programme is made up of three so-called "Key Actions" and two additional actions, and offers opportunities for:

- individuals to spend a mobility or volunteering period abroad and to receive linguistic training.
- organisations to collaborate in project partnerships in the fields of academic and vocational training, schools, adult learning and European sport events.

Erasmus+ also supports teaching, research, networking and policy debate on EU topics.

There are three Key Action areas which can be summarised as:

Credit Mobility (Key Action 1)

Cooperation for Innovation and Exchange of Good Practices (Key Action 2)

Support for Policy Reform (Key Action 3)



## Cooperation between AFAD and UPKM

Cooperation between Academy of Fine Arts and Design and University of Pristina temporarily located in Kosovska Mitrovica was established in 2016 by signing the Erasmus+ Inter-Institutional Agreement, and receiving grants from the EACEA for activities within the Key Action 1: Learning Mobility of Individuals.

Scholarships are awarded on the basis of Inter-Institutional agreements between universities from “Programme”<sup>1</sup> and Partner countries. This action is decentralised and managed by a network of National Agencies within the Programme Countries.

The partnership involves the exchange of students, academic and administrative staff for the period 2016 - 2018, which comprises study stay of:

Three students from Kosovska Mitrovica at AFAD

Two professors from Kosovska Mitrovica at AFAD

One professor from AFAD to Kosovska Mitrovica







## About the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava

The Academy of Fine Arts and Design is an artistic educational institution with a strong position and a significant prestige among other Slovakian universities and faculties with a particular focus on art. A great deal of its performance is focused on artistic and scientific-research activities, as well as on emerging international cooperation within the European education, art and research area.

The Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava was established on June 9, 1949 by the National Council of Slovakia.

The Academy of Fine Arts and Design is one of the biggest and oldest Slovakian institutions offering university education in various study programmes focusing on art. During the period of more than six decades of its existence, the Academy has established for itself a reputation of an institution with an important position among art schools in the Central European region, and at the same time it is continually strengthening its position within the European Union. Despite the fact that AFAD was confronted with numerous changes during its existence, including various ideological pressures, it has always remained committed to its progressive nature. In the last twenty years, it continually maintained its position of a prominent institution of higher education with a special focus on fine arts.

The Academy of Fine Arts and Design is not structured into faculties, but directly into twelve Departments and a Division of Drawing. This organisation structure enables the Academy to be a flexible and open educational institution and to create interdisciplinary educational environment.



## **Departments:**

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- Architecture
- Photography and New Media
- Printmaking and Other Media
- Intermedia
- Painting
- Design
- Conservation and Restoration
- Sculpture, Object, Installation
- Theory and History of Art
- Textiles
- Applied Art
- Visual Communication
- Division of Drawing





## The University of Pristina, Kosovska Mitrovica

The University of Pristina, temporarily settled in Kosovska Mitrovica was founded in 1970 in Pristina. The University has the status of a state university, as a comprehensive/multidisciplinary university and comprises of ten Faculties.

The Bologna agenda has been adopted at the University and a three-cycle system of studies was introduced in 2006. Almost all scientific disciplines, with the exception of political sciences, are offered by the programme of studies at the University of Pristina, Kosovska Mitrovica. Three levels of studies (BA, MA and PhD) are present at ten different faculties:

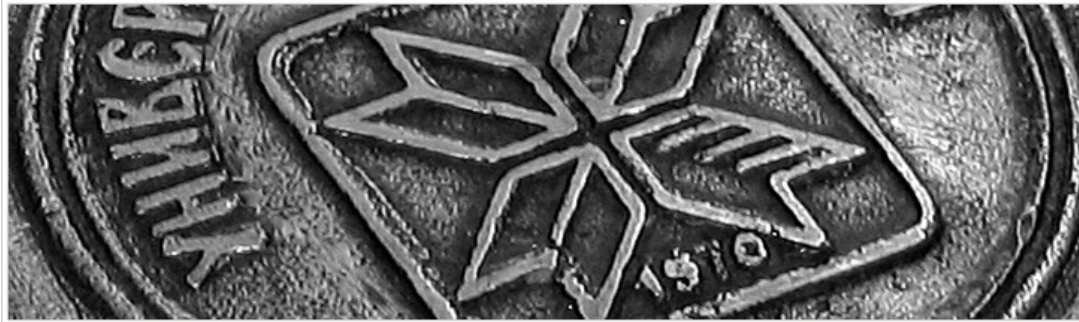
- Faculty of Economics
- Faculty of Medical Sciences
- Faculty of Agriculture
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
- Teachers' Training Faculty
- Faculty of Sports and Physical Education
- Faculty of Technical Sciences



- Faculty of Arts
- Faculty of Philosophy

Currently, there are nearly 10.000 students and 900 academic and administrative staff.

Nowadays, the University is an initiator and participates actively in various national and international projects, and has established educational networks and signed official cooperation agreements with a great number of universities abroad.







## The Faculty of Arts

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Faculty of Arts in Pristina temporarily settled in Zvečan is a four-decade old successful educational art institution with fundamental activity to educate students in the fields of : fine arts, music and dramatic arts, as well as humanistic sciences at the undergraduate level and master studies in accordance with the study rules based on European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) and a credit accumulation system. The teaching is organised in accordance with the Law on Higher Education in Republic of Serbia, which is based on the Bologna declaration principles.

Faculty of Arts in Pristina was founded in 1973, as the Academy of Fine Arts, in accordance with the Law of Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosovo and the Decision of the Council of the University of Pristina. In 1975 the Academy was renamed Academy of Arts because a new department was established, and that is Department of Music. It acquired its current name - Faculty of Arts in 1986, when yet another department was established, that is Department of Dramatic arts.

Therefore, Faculty of Arts consists of three departments:

### **Department of Fine Arts**

Study programmes: Painting, Sculpture, Graphics, Graphic Design.

### **Department of Music**

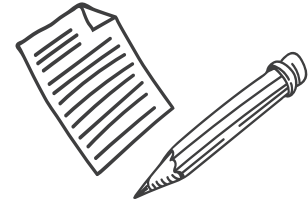
Study programmes: Music pedagogy, Performing arts (Module Piano, Module String instruments, Sub Modules: Violin, Viola, Violoncello, Module Wind instruments, Sub Modules: Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet).

### **Department of Dramatic arts**

Study programs: Acting.







## Teaching Mobility

Erasmus+ Teaching Staff Mobility aims to motivate the academic staff of the Universities to do short-term teaching assignments in Erasmus+ programme countries.

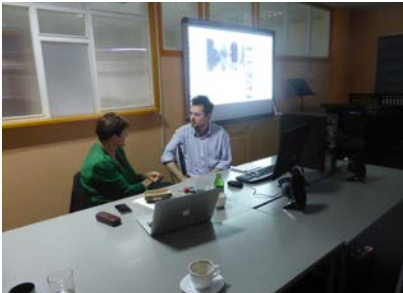
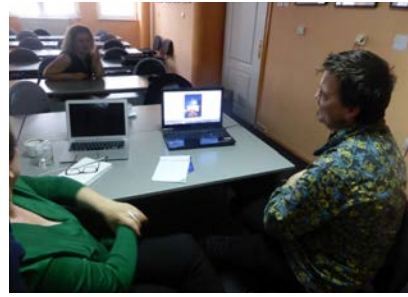
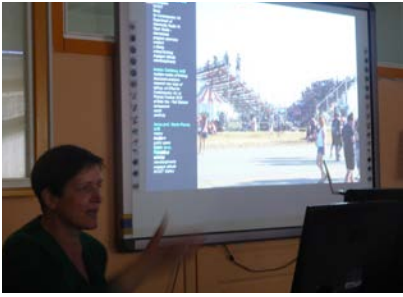
It gives them the possibility to:

- establish contacts with colleagues in their academic field,
- gain new teaching experiences in an international context,
- contribute to, and learn from, best practice while teaching a course with European colleagues.

Teaching assignment is minimum of 8 hours of teaching for a teaching stay of 2-7 days.

The staff receives reimbursement of travel costs and perdiems of 120 euro for accommodation costs.

Importantly, Erasmus+ Staff Mobility is intended to contribute to the wider Internationalisation and modernisation strategies of the home university.

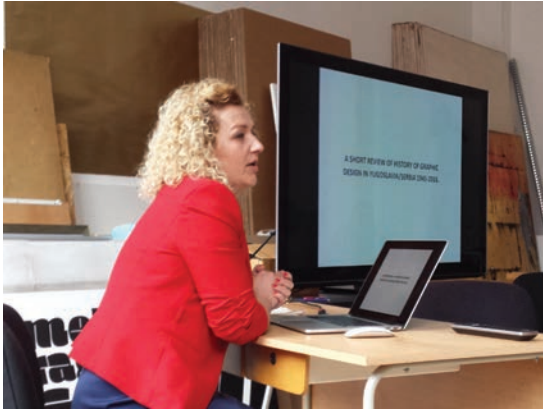


## Ilona Nemeth

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The stay at the University of Pristina represents my second experience with Erasmus+. The first time I visited schools in Mulhouse and Strassbourg in France because our students go there for their foreign exchanges. This time I have chosen a country and a town we all know better from the political news than from personal experience of students or colleagues. I have to admit that I made a good decision - what is based on the very specificity of the country of Kosovo and the town of Kosovska Mitrovica which were extremely interesting not only from personal, but also professional point of view.

Hosting part with professor Ester Milentijević and other colleagues prepared a quality working program and also showed me the divided town which is connected by one bridge. On the other side of the river there is Albanian part of the city. I visited the faculty of arts and the colleagues took me to different buildings, classrooms and spoke about the specific division of the university in Pristina - currently, there are two universities with the same name. Our school has contractual relations with the Serbian one which is situated in the smaller Serbian part of Kosovska Mitrovica and is financed by the Serbian government. After the tour around the faculty of arts I made a presentation for the colleagues and students, in which I focused on the description of our school, the Intermedia department, as well as my own artistic work. My visit continued with tutorial consultations with those older students who, based on my presentation, were interested in our department or my artistic program. I had around four tutorial consultations per day. This faculty is oriented more towards the classical media, so I consulted their school and also extracurricular projects. Based on this visit I would recommend to students from both schools to apply for Erasmus scholarships. Our students could gain an experience from the very specific local context, while students from Kosovska Mitrovica could be inspired by our pedagogical methods and by greater variety of departments to choose – those of design or fine arts, including our Intermedia department.



## Ester Milentijević, M.A. Associate Professor of Graphic Design

Academy of Fine Arts and Design from Bratislava has signed an agreement on mobility of students and teaching staff with the University of Pristina temporarily settled in Kosovska Mitrovica within the Erasmus + project.

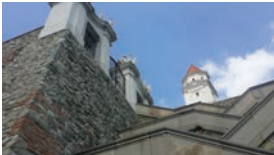
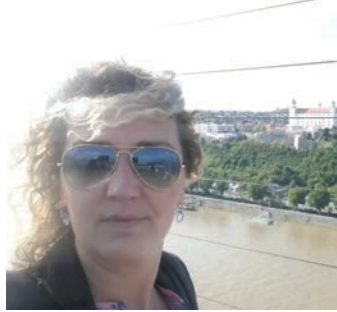
During the selection period which lasted from 5-12.05.2017, I happened to be selected together with my colleague Aleksandra Trajkovic, a vice-dean of Music department and a coordinator of Erasmus +project between the Faculty of Arts in Pristina –Zvecan and Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava.

A lecture and a workshop were held by Associate Professor Ester Milentijevic at the Department of Visual Communications at the Studio 303.

Lecture topic: ` A SHORT REVIEW OF THE HISTORY OF DESIGN IN THE TERRITORY OF YUGOSLAVIA/SERBIA IN THE PERIOD OF 1945-2016. `

The lecture was attended by 15 students and they were quite surprised to learn that there were similar visual solutions by graphic designers in Slovakia originating from the same period. During my stay in Bratislava there was an exhibition in the Slovak National Gallery called ` Fashion in Slovakia 1945-1989 `, where apart from garments, posters, magazines and other printed editions were exhibited, too. I took some photographs on-site and made comparisons of visual solutions, which I believe, helped the students grasp the idea of my lecture. Through a number of constructive questions and conclusions the students got acquainted with the history of graphic design from the region I come from, and I hope it will also provoke further critical analysis in the area of creativity.

Workshop: ` STYLIZATION OF ORNAMENTS AND THEIR APPLICATION ON T- SHIRTS BY SILK SCREEN `.





The workshop was attended by 10 students who achieved the skill of applying ornaments onto the t-shirts (by silk screen technique, as well as getting acquainted with a historical development of the design and press) by hand painted and already pressed ornaments stylized by the students from the Faculty of Arts in Pristina- Zvecan. My intention was to close a shared work of the students from my Faculty and the students of Academy of Fine Arts and Design who were at the time a 1000 km apart. By partial realization of their works the students developed skills of creative attitude and fulfillment of visual solutions.

My stay at the academy was certainly enriched by making acquaintances with the vice-rector Nina De Gelder and Associate professor Marcel Bencik, with whom I was able to exchange experience of Erasmus+ programme as well as within the sphere of graphic design.

Finally, I would like to add my personal impressions of Bratislava as a beautiful city which radiates peace, tradition and culture. Visits to numerous sights of Bratislava such as Castle, St Martin`s Cathedral, Old Town Hall, Primate`s Palace, Grassalkovich Palace, Slovak National Theatre, The Statue Cumil, Blue Church, The Main Square are only a part of the cultural heritage of this city which make it special. A wonderful city and a hospitable nation, are only two among numerous reasons for another visit to Bratislava.





## Ervin Catovic

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Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava and University of Pristina, temporarily located in Kosovska Mitrovica, have signed an agreement on mobility of students and teaching staff with the Erasmus+ project.

One of the results of this agreement has been a visit of mine to the Academy, where I held Drawing classes from November 20<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Pristina is an institution with a 45 year long tradition. The aim of my stay at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava was not only to transfer some of the experience I had acquired during my teaching practice, but also to spend some time getting to know the students as well as their professors and my colleagues in Bratislava.

I was really delighted by the hospitality and welcome that the Management, the teaching staff and the students of this Academy have presented. During my stay in Bratislava I was able to notice professional ethics and feel nothing but good intentions.

It is usually hard, for such a short period of time, to make a visible progress in the educational process. However, the time we have spent together expanded our horizons. Students were able to follow me with extraordinary ease and attention, and I believe that what we have achieved together are a special connection and work on the topic called *Figure in Space*. We were able to suggest and help each other by giving constructive



comments and share opinions about their recent drawings, having in mind that drawing is the foundation of a visual media.

I would also like to add that the city of Bratislava and its people, particularly the people I have met at the Academy, are altogether a true example of a modern European center of Arts, Science and Culture. I sincerely hope that our cooperation so far will result in further connections and gatherings of students and their professors.





## Student Mobility

Opportunities to study abroad are available to students at Bachelor and Master levels, as well as for Doctoral candidates.

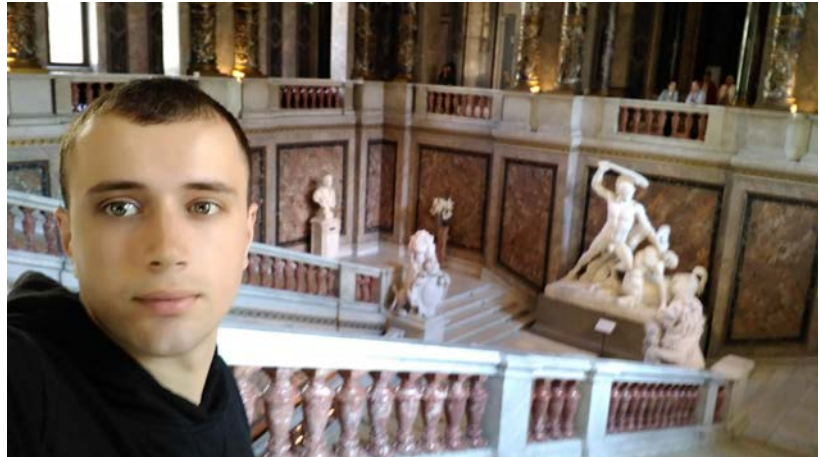
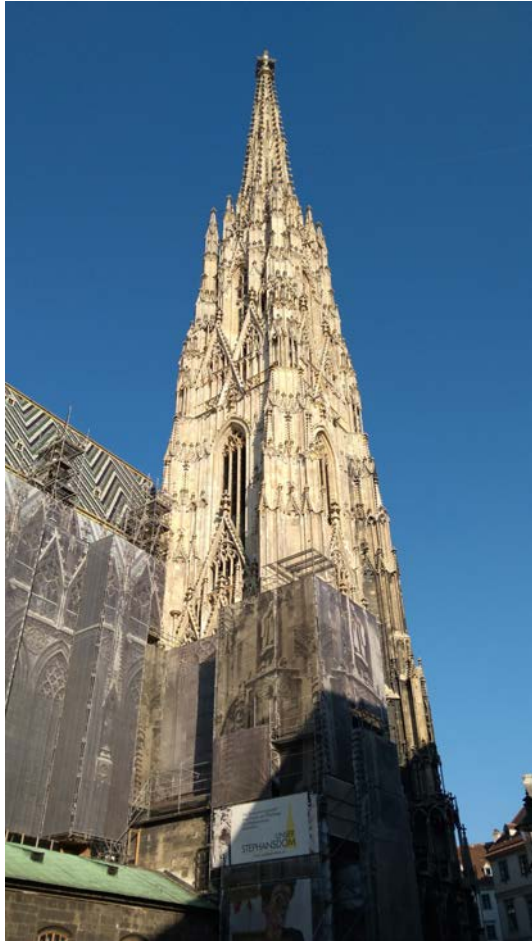
Study period abroad can last from a minimum of 3 months to a maximum of 12 months.

A student can benefit from an exchange abroad with Erasmus+ multiple times, but the total study abroad time may not exceed 12 months within one cycle of study.

Before going abroad, a student, the sending institution and the receiving institution sign a Learning Agreement to ensure a transparent and efficient preparation of the exchange abroad, as well as to agree on the activities successfully completed abroad and how they will be recognised later on.

Students receive an Erasmus+ grant as a contribution to their travel and subsistence costs.

For a study in Slovakia within this very programme, students will receive 275 euro for travel costs and 120 euro per month for the costs of their stay.





## Djordje Stankovic

My name is Đorđe Stanković and I am a student at the 4<sup>th</sup> year of bachelor studies at the Faculty of Arts in Kosovska Mitrovica, department of printmaking.

At the end of the first semester an audition was announced for Erasmus exchange. I immediately thought that it was a great opportunity for me and that I will be able to improve and share my skills with people from various areas of creative work. I applied and after a while I received a confirmation mail from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava. It was an exciting moment because I never thought that an opportunity would arise for me to travel through Europe or visit some of the countries from the European Union. On February 19<sup>th</sup> I departed from my home town and started my journey. The trip lasted for fifteen hours but it was quite enjoyable as I had a beautiful view of the surrounding nature. I was looking forward to my first encounter with Bratislava, its architecture and its history.

On my first day I met my Erasmus friends. It was an amazing group of people coming from various countries like Finland, Spain, England, Russia, Hungary, Croatia, Poland, Bosnia and Montenegro. They became my second family. They taught me many things. Together we went on many trips and visited many cities, castles, clubs, concerts and museums. Our collaboration and friendship, most often seen in all its beauty in the hallway of Konventna, are among the dearest experiences in my life. I was able to speak to people from different backgrounds and with different mentalities and discover what their customs and traditions are. This was a huge change for me because I come from a really small village where people are not used to talking with foreigners.

At first I was a bit surprised with how AFAD functioned but I quickly got used to it. I signed up for printmaking atelier of professor Vojtech Kolenčik (studio of free and colour printmaking). He was very kind and introduced me to his studio and my colleagues. My friend Jozef Glaba was also really helpful. Without him I would have



had a lot harder time. He taught me a few printmaking tricks and helped me with getting the necessary materials.

I also went to drawing classes led by Štefan Oslej. I can honestly say that he was one of the best professors I have ever had. He would always give amazingly helpful criticism. At the end of the course, the difference between my first and my last drawing was quite visible.

The only negative experience I had during my visit, was with Slovakian police for foreigners. I applied for a temporary stay at their office where I encountered with a bad system and a huge line of tired people. You were obliged to show up the previous day in front of the station and wait for a whole night, if you wanted to get a chance of being called to their office the next day. I even had to return a few times because there were some mistakes in my documents. So I practically slept three nights in front of the police station. I even had the misfortune of being mistaken for another man and was held there for six hours until they could prove that I was not him and that I did nothing wrong. It was a really stressful experience. The policemen were not nice and they were not willing to speak English, even if they knew it. Fortunately enough, I was able to deal with the whole situation. Now that it's all over I like to think of it as a life lesson.

All I can say is that the gratitude I feel towards people that played a role in this adventure is huge. This particularly applies to my new friends from Konventna and their generous support in both, good and bad times.





## Dejan Filipovic

When people came to our faculty and presented a student exchange programme, I was suspicious at first. I found it hard to believe that anyone could be willing enough to offer us a chance to live and study abroad, as well as get a scholarship for covering most of the expenses.

First thing I did the next day was collecting all the necessary documents and applying. After a while I got a notice of acceptance.

At the beginning of an exchange I was afraid and excited at the same time because I didn't know what to expect. Upon my arrival at the dormitory I met a student from England who showed me around and told me some important things about the life in the dorm, since he had arrived a week earlier. Very soon, students from all over Europe started arriving at the dorm. As the time passed by, we all got to know each other and became a very close group of friends. We used to organize picnics, lunches, night-outs, visits to other cities and sight-seeing around Bratislava and its monuments and galleries. We had our facebook group which we used for all the arrangements considering cleaning, washing and other maintenance work. We all felt like one big family. Due to the fact that Bratislava is one of the best positioned cities in the Europe, we all had an opportunity to travel to Czech Republic, Austria and Hungary. For this, we had a free train travel especially for students.

I am overwhelmed by positive emotions thinking about this experience and I could easily go on writing. However, I would like to point out to some of the most positive benefits of this exchange. Firstly, there is the chance of getting to know and talk with many students from all around Europe, socialize with them, share experience and exchange ideas. As a result, you end up being more aware of differences among people in all their beauty. It is an experience that makes you more mature and opens you up spiritually.

Secondly, the knowledge that I acquired by studying in Bratislava is priceless. I got to know a different system



of education and it felt amazing having more freedom for expressing yourself through your work. This fact brought me to changing my point of view when it comes to certain things.

I did not experience any particular difficulties during my stay in Bratislava. There were some challenges that I was asked to overcome, but I found them enjoyable and learned a lot from them. Student exchange programme is a rich and positive experience and I highly recommend it to all those students with doubts, since I used to be among them. The exchange affected my positive view of the world in a way that now it is more positive than ever before. The knowledge and experience I gained, will surely play a big part in my future endeavours, both personal and professional.





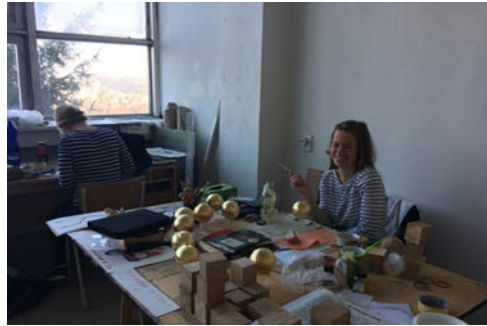
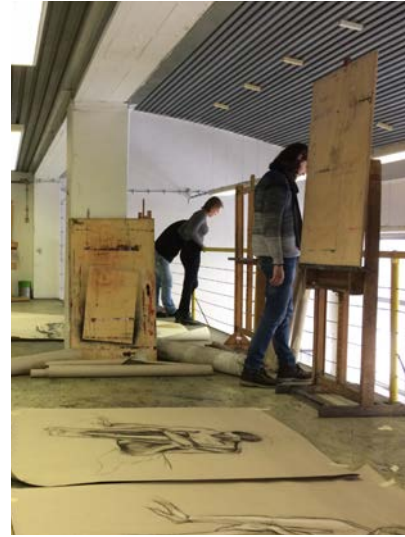


## Dunja Veljkovic

The capital of Slovakia, Bratislava, is a very good choice for students who are applying for exchange programs for the first time. The city itself is not so big. Students can easily get acquainted with all parts of the city in five months. The location of the city, among other things, is a great advantage since it is very easy to visit big and important cities and cultural centers in the region. Also, something interesting and new can always be found in Bratislava since various manifestations and exhibitions are happening every week.

As a student of graphics, I decided to continue focusing on the same topic during my stay in Bratislava. Slovakia is famous for excellent graphic artists and I was very pleased for being given the opportunity to become a part of that world. I can say that I am very satisfied. The faculty is located in three locations, which provides enough space for students to work. The thing I liked the most is the diversity and choice of courses offered by this faculty. Each department offers several sub-topics, which allows students to pursue their interests to the maximum. I chose the Studio of Free Graphics with Professor Robert Jančovič and an assistant professor Katerina Vaclavkova. The Free Graphics Studio offered an opportunity to engage in graphics in a quite unconventional way. The professor offered us the opportunity to find ourselves and experiment with various objects and techniques. This I found completely new and amusing. As a second course I chose painting with Professor Ivan Csudai, with whom I had a lot of conversations on the subject of my work, as well as on the topic of painting itself. I learned a lot and received a lot of support to continue with my work. The thing I really liked about this school was that the workshops as well as guest lectures of professors from all over the world, were organized on a regular basis. I believe that this was a great way for students and professors to become informed about the work of other artists. The exhibition which has been organized at the end of the semester, enabled all the students to get acquainted with the work of other colleagues from the Academy.

I find this approach very useful and interesting for all the students. I would certainly recommend ERASMUS to everyone. It is



a great way for foreign students to get to know new cultures. The best part of this experience was meeting people from other countries and making new friends. I am very happy that I have had an opportunity to become a part of an Erasmus network of students. Those five months I spent in Bratislava were a unique experience which I will cherish forever.





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