

ERASMUS EXPERIENCE AT UPMF GRENOBLE 2

Everything's great over here! I can't believe how well everything is going because I've heard of people having nightmare experiences in France with all the bureaucracy and finding it hard to make friends but everything's going well so far! I came over in July to sign a lease for a room in an apartment and to open a bank account and sort out house insurance so most of the hard stuff was done when I arrived. I'm living in the city in an apartment with 3 other students. They're all international as well and are studying full time. One is Greek, another is German and the last is Indian. The apartment is right in the city centre and it's great! I have a massive room and I'm close to all the public transport so it's easy to get around on the tram and bus. A student pass for unlimited public transport for a month is €20 so it's great! I was worried that by not living in student accommodation I wouldn't make friends but it definitely wasn't the case! I've made so many friends just by trying out the classes or Erasmus events. I've met a few Irish but I don't hang out too much with them because they mainly stick together and they don't really try to mix too much with the other students so it's a pain. Most of my friends are Turkish, Belgian, German, French and American so it's great to learn about the different cultures!

The college has been amazing so far as well! They're really flexible with classes and because UPMF, UJF and Stendhal University are all joining together next year, they allow you to take classes from all the different colleges. The international office over here has been really helpful too and don't mind speaking English to me when I'm finding it hard to explain something in French. There are so many events on the campus for internationals as well! It's great to have the campus too because a lot of my friends are in cities where there's no campus but they're just taking classes in buildings dotted around the city. The campus reminds me of Maynooth's campus a lot actually! The city itself is beautiful too and not very expensive! The bars have lots of student deals and there are a few bars that are mainly aimed for Erasmus and international students so it's really nice to go there and meet all the other nationalities!

But, yeah, so far it's been amazing! I was a bit scared coming alone but it was the best decision I could have made. I can't recommend the place enough!

Alanna, UPMF Grenoble 2, France