

## **ERASMUS EXPERIENCE AT UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA**

*Not every student gets the chance to study abroad, and I feel so lucky to have been able to say 'yes' to going away. It's incredible that we get this opportunity to live abroad and have it contribute towards our degrees. I went to Ljubljana, Slovenia, and I can't describe how beautiful it is. The place, people, food, culture - it's exhilarating. Ljubljana is a very alternative city with some really cool locations. Think of it as a mini, less-touristic Berlin. A hidden gem in the middle of Europe.*

*You need to enter your Erasmus with an open mind. You will meet people from all corners of the globe so put yourself out there, learn from others and in turn you will learn more about yourself. Go to classes, join in on activities, accept every party invitation and travel to neighbouring countries on weekends. Make sure to budget your trip - it isn't easy, but it is doable. In Ljubljana, very few places will charge entry fees and there's always something cool happening in the city that doesn't hurt your bank account. At the minute, prices in Slovenia are half of what we pay in Ireland, and being a student means things are even cheaper. The 'študentski boni' allows students to eat in restaurants at a lower price (€5 tops). There are of course restrictions as to how many vouchers you can use a day, and which restaurants you can use it in, but it's still pretty great :) You can walk from one end of the city to the other in 15 minutes, it is so small! There's also a city bike system that is super affordable and it's great if you are in a hurry. Slovenia has a really low crime rate, so you always feel relatively safe. Don't take this as gospel though, try not to walk alone at night and always let your friends know where you're going. When at home and abroad, have fun but also have sense!*

*University of Ljubljana has the most friendly staff, in fact the lecturers were more like friends than anything else. We learned from them, and they learned from us. Classes were really intimate and interactive, and we really had a lot of fun. You won't be out-casted because you're an international student - you will be welcomed with open arms. The Slovenes are absolutely wonderful, and I'm so thankful for the Erasmus experience because I made friends that I know I'll have for life.*

*They say 'Erasmus isn't one year of your life, it's your life in one year', and truer words have never been spoken. So embrace it, appreciate it and you will love it. Just go; I promise you won't regret it.*

***Shaneen, University of Ljubljana***

