



**SILESIA
UNIVERSITY**
FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY
AND SCIENCE IN OPAVA



Erasmus+

Stay at Faculty of Philosophy and Science in Opava in frame of Erasmus+

Name, Surname: Alessandra Mannino

Country: Italy

Name of the university: University of Palermo

Period of stay: 16.09.2022-16.02.2023

What was your main reason for choosing to study at Silesian University (SU)?

I chose this university because of the courses offered in English, and also because of its location in an area of Europe that I was very curious to explore.

How long did you stay at SU? (in months)

5 months

What was your first impression after you arrived here?

My first impression was that I was in a very quiet city where everything is conveniently within walking distance in a short time.

How did you get used to your new study and living environment?

It was a bit challenging at first because of my block with English but the professors were very understanding and kind and helped me open up. It was easy to get used to this new living environment because it was exactly as I expected it to be, which was very quiet and safe.



Can you compare your home university and SU? Is there anything unique about SU?

The University of Palermo has many students so it is much more chaotic than SU. SU is like a small family and especially in the Italianistics department there is a really nice atmosphere of very enthusiastic people.

How did life in Opava seem to you? What was the city like?

The city features pretty architecture and is very well maintained and clean. I always felt very safe, day and night. I also really enjoyed the pubs, a true Czech experience cannot be without pivo!

Are the living costs in Opava lower or higher to your home city?

More or less the same, this is also one of the reasons why I chose this Erasmus destination.

What was the local food like? What were your favourite dishes?

Being a vegetarian, I did not taste some of the typical dishes but I really enjoyed the koláč and also the knedlík with sweet toppings.

In your opinion, what are the best places to visit in the town and region?

In Opava, my absolute favorite place is absolutely the Kino Odboj, very unique place with good programming and good beer!

I also like a lot Stříbrné jezero for its tranquility.

And as the photo shows, Hradec nad Moravicí is really a nice place nearby to visit.

Krnov is also a nice place that is very well-kept and has beautiful architecture, and I especially loved Český Těšín because of its beauty and the fact that it is a border town.

Do you have any advice for future exchange students?

My advice is not to expect every person to have to speak English, so I also recommend learning some Czech to interact with local people, it is always greatly appreciated and shows respect for the language and culture of the country that is hosting us.

What was your best experience?

The welcome party was really beautiful. I felt really welcomed.



How do you think this opportunity to study abroad impacted your life?

Definitely it was an impactful experience because I finally overcame my block with English, plus it was wonderful to meet the other Erasmus students from other countries, because the cultural exchange that resulted from these encounters is always very enriching.

Were you satisfied with the list of courses offered by the university? Would you add any course to the list? And if so, which?

Unfortunately, there was not much compatibility with my study plan but it was not a big problem. The only subjects I would add are a lot more linguistics courses but only because I love the subject.

Accommodation at Hradecká dormitory (1 - very dissatisfied, 5 - very satisfied)

1 – 2 – 3 – **4** – 5

Welcome/orientation activity (1 - very dissatisfied, 5 - very satisfied)

1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – **5**

Trips/events organized by the International Department/buddy (1 - very dissatisfied, 5 - very satisfied)

1 – 2 – 3 – **4** – 5

International Coordinators (1 - very dissatisfied, 5 - very satisfied)

1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – **5**

Teachers (1 - very dissatisfied, 5 - very satisfied)

1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – **5**

Library (1 - very dissatisfied, 5 - very satisfied)

1 – 2 – 3 – **4** – 5

Transportation (1 - very dissatisfied, 5 - very satisfied)

1 – 2 – 3 – **4** – 5

Entertainment, culture (1 - very dissatisfied, 5 - very satisfied)

1 – 2 – 3 – **4** – 5



Gastronomy (1 - very dissatisfied, 5 - very satisfied)

1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5

Did your buddy keep in touch with you during the whole semester?

Yes, we managed different activities such as cineforum and he also helped me with many things.

Additional comment on your overall satisfaction/dissatisfaction (optional).

All in all, I am very satisfied; I will always carry this important experience with me. One of the few unsatisfactory things was the sudden increase in the dorm rent but I understand that because the cost of living is increasing almost everywhere.

☒ **Hereby consent to the processing of the personal data that I have provided in this form, including photographs.¹**

¹ The Silesian University in Opava (hereinafter referred to as "SU") will process personal data to the extent provided only in connection with the promotion of SU and motivation of other students to travel abroad. SU will process personal data (texts and photographs) mainly by publishing them on the SU website, SU social networks and information screens in SU buildings. SU will process the provided personal data until the purpose of their provision is fulfilled or until the consent is withdrawn.

Consent to the processing of personal data may be withdrawn at any time, free of charge, by sending an e-mail to (gdpr-dpo@slu.cz). This revocation may relate to the entire scope of the consent granted or to a specific part thereof. Withdrawal of consent does not affect the lawfulness of processing based on consent given prior to its withdrawal. Further information on the processing of personal data, incl. your rights, are available at <https://www.slu.cz/slu/cz/pravniudaje>.



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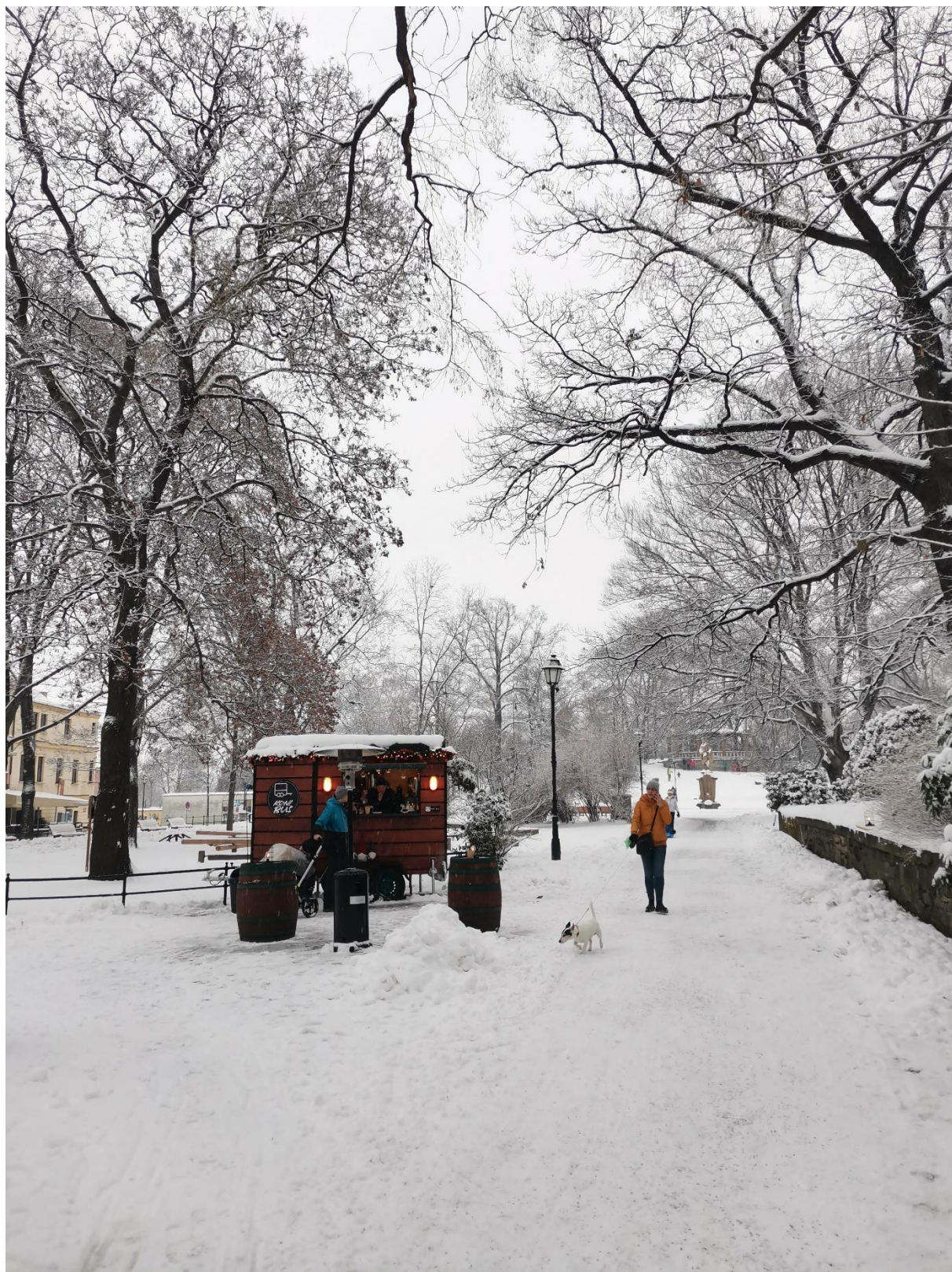




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