

Project code: 2022-1-IT02-KA171-HED-000073309

Name and Surname: Thuy Ngoc Bui

Home Institution: Vietnam National University of Agriculture

Host Institution: University of Camerino

Type of mobility: Erasmus+ KA171 mobility for study

Duration: 20th February – 19th July 2025

Description of the activities:

I am a student in Food Science and Technology at Vietnam National University of Agriculture, and I had the wonderful opportunity to spend five months as an exchange student at the University of Camerino, Italy. This was not only an academic journey, but also a deeply personal and cultural experience that has shaped my views and enriched my life in so many ways.



From the moment I arrived in Camerino, I was welcomed with open arms. People smiled at me on the street (which confused me at first), the university staff were always ready to help, and even the cats in the old town looked like they wanted to be my friend. The dorm? Wow. It was so comfortable and well-equipped that I sometimes wondered, "Am I studying abroad or secretly staying in a cozy Airbnb?" Honestly, it felt like home.

One of the best parts of this experience was the people I lived with - students from all over the world. I had roommates who cooked dishes I

couldn't pronounce, friends who taught me new words in her country, and late-night talks about everything from food habits, favourite bands to our dreams for the future.

Academically, I learned a lot - about food systems, sustainability, and European approaches to agriculture. But life outside the classroom taught me even more. I learned how to cook pasta "the Italian way", how to slow down and enjoy a sunny afternoon with a gelato in hand and the long evening walks.

I am deeply grateful to the University of Camerino and to ESN (Erasmus Student Network) for all the support, friendship, and opportunities they provided. Whether it was organizing cultural events or helping us navigate daily life, they were always there, making the experience smoother and more joyful.

I didn't just study in Italy. I lived in Italy. I laughed, I got lost (a lot), I made lifelong friends, and I fell in love with a country that has more kinds of cheese than I can count. I'm going home with a heart full of memories, a head full of ideas, and probably a few extra kilos - but totally worth it.

Grazie mille, Camerino. You've been more than just a place on the map. You've been a second home. And yes - I will definitely come back. If not for the learning, then at least for the pizza.