

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

Home Institution: Universiteti Mjeksisë, Tiranë

Host Institution: Università di Camerino

Type of mobility: Student incoming mobility, research for experimental master thesis.

Duration: 5 months

Description of the activities

My name is Angela Lekaj, I am a graduating master's student in Pharmacy at Universiteti Mjeksisë Tiranë. I saw the application to be part of the ERASMUS + program on the website of my university. Among the other applications, I choose the one at Università di Camerino. The agreement was to take part in the ERASMUS + the second semester and do my experimental master's thesis there. The period abroad was 5 months from the 21st of March till the 22nd of August.

I arrived in Camerino on the 21st of March and met Sara Rossini from Ufficio Relazioni internazionali, who helped me with the necessary documents and provided general information about what I needed to do. After settling into my room, I met my German roommate Shania with whom I would be sharing the next four months. I also got lucky enough to have other Albanian students in my apartment.

The following day, I met my supervisor Doc. Roberta Censi, she explained the project and the experiments I would conduct for my thesis. We worked on the Chemistry Interdisciplinary Project (ChIP), and she showed me around the entire building, including her laboratories. I also met my colleagues and familiarized myself with the instruments and facilities. Later, I met my co-supervisor, Lakshmi Sathi Devi, a PhD student who guided me through my five months in the laboratory. My thesis is focused on the synthesis of nanoparticles for cancer treatment, using a novel approach called Theranostic, which is a combinatorial therapy.

Most of my days were spent in the Synthesis and Characterization Laboratory conducting experiments, reading articles and participating in different conferences.

Within the first week, ESN (Erasmus student network-Camerino) organized a trip around the city in which participated a lot of Erasmus students from around the world. There I got the chance to meet different people and get in touch with different cultures. Throughout the mobility period they also prepared other activities like making pasta the traditional way, Corsa della Spada, a traditional celebration in Camerino, the trip around Marche, several dinners, etc.

On the 29th of April, all the Erasmus students were invited to a seminar organized by PhD Student Kenzhekhan Kabdesov, with the topic "Intersect: Merging Disciplines for Global Solutions". The goal was to show the importance of how the combination of different disciplines can lead to great results in the success of a company. We all shared our experiences and our backgrounds and we got to know each other even on a personal level. Kenzhekhan made the seminar more engaging by making us an active part of brainstorming, sharing ideas, and exchanging each other experiences.

By the end of June, another Erasmus program was organized but this time was for the academic personnel and part of it were two of my professors from Albania. They came and gave lessons about their field to the other master students and other colleague professors.



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The last conference I attended was on the 17th of July called “PhD Summer Day” where all the PhD students from CHIP presented and shared their work. I thought all the topics were really interesting and innovative. I really appreciated all the hard work that was put into it and I could see how the research gathers different fields and different approaches to improve.

I learned a lot and discovered a world I did not know I would like. All the people I met were kind gentle and always there to help. I was lucky to be part of this experience and I would strongly encourage everyone to participate in an Erasmus program and I would particularly suggest choosing Università di Camerino as a hosting university.