

## Study Report – University of Zagreb Fall 2022

### Study Programme

The University of Zagreb is the most prestigious in all of Croatia. Sadly, due to the earthquake, the main building of the faculty of law is currently under construction, so you will have classes in alternative buildings. The courses are worth 4 credits. Therefore, to be able to fulfill the 30 ECTS requirement, you will have to take at least 8 courses. The level of difficulty is not as high as in Groningen, but the work will accumulate at the end of the semester. Nevertheless, it is easy to pass the courses with good grades. The exams are usually oral, but in some courses, they have either online or essay exams. The professors are very knowledgeable and renowned in very different fields. As classes tend to be smaller, it is easier to have a more interpersonal relationship with the professors. The courses I took were EU transport law, Carriage of goods by sea, Electronic Media Law, International Air Law, International cultural heritage Law, Insurance Law, Introduction to financial law and financial science, International Criminal Procedure, and International Law of the sea. There is none, I would advise you not to take. Even though all have the same credits, some can be more demanding than others. Attendance is generally mandatory in most courses, you are only allowed to miss a few classes. However, it was good to make you aware of the content and to set a routine.

### Language

All of the courses for Erasmus Students are in English. The majority of the courses I had were with Erasmus students. However, in some, I had Croatian students as well, but the language taught remained English. The level of English of the professors is really good. In Croatia in general, not everyone speaks English well, but it is very easy to find a common ground or find someone who will be able to help you. They also provide you with the opportunity to take a Croatian language course. I didn't attend them, but I know people who did, and they spoke very well about it.

### Finance and other Conditions

Compared to Groningen, Zagreb is cheaper. The rent in the university dorms depends on which one of the dorms you choose, but it is around 66-100€ per month. In case, you prefer to rent an apartment it will be more expensive, I paid around 330€ depending on utilities. With regards to food, you can eat at the student restaurants (Menza), which are honestly very good for the price. You get a discount if you use the university card, and a meal can be around 0,80 to 2 euros, depending on what you order. There are vegetarian options, although not very diverse. The restaurants and bars are cheaper compared with the Netherlands. Public transportation is also very cheap, a ticket for the tram is 0,50 cents. In general, life is cheaper.

### Housing

During my exchange, I stayed at the dorms for a while, and later on, I changed to an apartment. There are 3 dorms available. My dorm was Ante Starcevic, which was the cheapest (66 euros per month). It has smaller rooms compared to the other dorms. In all of them, you must share a room. However, in the Ante Starcevic, you will also have to share a bathroom with the room next to you. There is a kitchen and a laundry room for the whole floor. The kitchen is not equipped enough, having only 2 sinks and 2 stoves. However, you can eat at the student restaurants, which are cheaper, and close to the dorms. The other dorms (Cvjetno and Stjepan

Radic) are much nicer, but a bit further from the Centre of town. There are a lot of cafes and supermarkets around the dorms. I liked living in the dorm since I met a lot of cool people and made a lot of friends. But in the end, it depends on your roommate, to make your stay pleasant or not. I did not have a nice roommate, which made me move to an apartment. It was better in terms of privacy and comfort. Even though it was more expensive, I preferred it. However, if you have a nice roommate and your comfortable living there, I think it's worth it to stay in the dorms.

### **Preparation and Contacts with the faculty abroad + Guidance/Reception at Host University**

At the beginning of the year, the mobility office organizes a welcome day, which provides you with all the information necessary to access the online platform and with the student card. The courses you choose from the catalogue might not be available, and the schedule may be overlapping. Hence, you might have to change your learning agreement. To contact the international student advisor, you can either email them or go to the office. I would advise you to join the ESN Zagreb, they provide you with a lot of fun activities and have a buddy system, where they pair you with a Croatian student, in case you need help with anything or tips about the city.

### **Culture, Free Time and Travelling**

Zagreb is a small city, but there is a range of activities you should try out. You can visit the Medvednica mountain, where you can hike or ski. It has a very pretty landscape. There are also the Plitvice lakes, which are definitely worth visiting and the Christmas Market in the city is very nice.

It is really easy to travel to a lot of South-Eastern European countries. You can also explore Croatia's coast. The ESN Zagreb provides a lot of travel opportunities, such as Slovenia (Lake Bled) and Bosnia (Sarajevo). Nevertheless, Zagreb is close to Austria, Slovenia, Hungary, Montenegro, and Serbia. There are not many museums. The most famous are the museum of Broken Relationship and the Museum of Hangovers. I would recommend the museum of contemporary art, but it's a bit further from the city Centre. There are a lot of nice bars, which are also quite cheap and the hang out stop of Erasmus students, such as bar 45, Rahkia bar, and close to the dorms teachers pub. There are a lot of clubs, the most famous in the Erasmus community are bunker, Katran and boogaloo. But I will recommend Secret to experience Balkan music.

### **Other**

Zagreb has a huge variety of restaurants and a lot of bakeries which are not expensive. There are also really nice cafes, I would advise Quahwa it has good coffee and it's open until late, so perfect to study. Cash is a must in most cafes and bars.

Also, if you want to sign up for the dorms, I advise you to apply for the earliest possible, as the best ones have fewer rooms. I recommend the ESN Zagreb card, they have a lot of discounts, including for travelling with the flix bus and Ryanair. Overall, I had a lot of fun, was lucky to meet amazing people, and really liked the professors, so I would definitely recommend Zagreb.

Tip: The courses I choose that I was least interested in, ended up being the ones I liked the most, so I advise you to get out of your comfort zone and explore different courses.