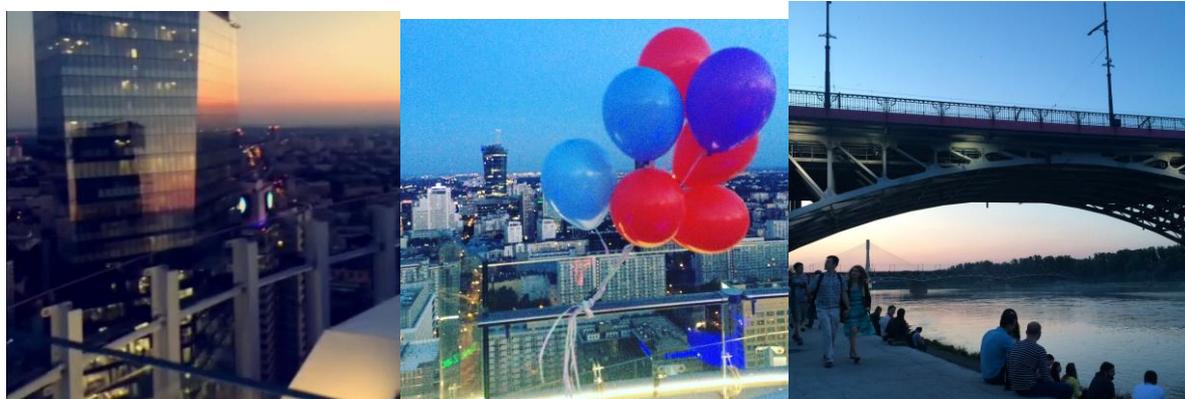


## My Erasmus adventure in Warsaw



I never had any aspirations or thoughts about studying in Poland before I applied for the exchange semester. I had never visited the country and had no plans to do so. My decision to apply for Kozminski University in Warsaw was based on the ranking of the university, their reputation, focus on international students and my own pure intuition. I always knew, however, that I wanted to do an exchange semester. The reason I applied for an erasmus exchange semester was because I wanted to get to know people from all over the world, experience a new culture and study abroad. My erasmus experience gave me so much more than that.



Before I arrived in Warsaw, Kozminski University gave me a buddy to help me prepare for the semester and to make me feel welcome. My buddy, a girl from Ukraine, helped me with accomodation and even picked me up from the airport in Warsaw. She later became one of my very best friends in Warsaw.

Kozminski University is a great university for exchange students. A week before the classes started, we had several events to get to know the other students and the events continued even after the courses had started. The international exchange erasmus students network arranged events at least once a week which made it very easy to make friends with all the other exchange students, even though I did not have any classes together with some of them.

The University also helped me with getting an accomodation by e-mailing me suggestions on services where I could find apartments for rent. They also invited me to a facebook group where I could get in contact with the other exchange students that were also going to Kozminski University. In that group I got in contact with a French and a

Ukrainian girl that were also looking for roommates. The three of us found an apartment through one of the services that the university recommended, in the city center of Warsaw. We paid 3500 PLN (approximately 7800 SEK) a month for an apartment with three bedrooms, a small kitchen and a bathroom. I later found out that this was a bit pricey considering the condition of the apartment and the size even though it was in the very centrum of the city. I was very happy with the decision of renting an apartment in the city center. It was nice to be able to have everything close, including shopping and restaurants. Most of my friends were staying in apartments outside of the city center, which meant that whenever we were meeting up for pre-drinks or similar, we always hosted it in our flat as we were living in the middle of everyone.



I spent a lot of time trying to make my schedule work before the semester started. The classes were built up of mostly mandatory lectures which you had to attend in order to pass the class. Most of the classes were worth 3 ECT points which meant that I had to choose ten courses to study during my exchange semester. It was probably the biggest challenge with my exchange to choose courses and make them all fit into my schedule. I had picked out most of the courses I wanted to study before the selection started but once it was publicized most of the courses I wanted to take did not fit into the schedule. The selection when it comes to getting accepted into the courses are a first come first serve system. Some of the courses that I wanted to take were no longer available when I tried to apply for them. I ended up just picking courses that would work with my schedule, despite the fact I was not actually interested in taking some of them.

The education was very different from that of Stockholm Business School. For one, the classes are much smaller. In every lecture we were about twenty to thirty people participating and we were all expected to join the discussions and answer questions. We also had homework to do most days and we usually had a couple of presentations or essays to be written every month. I truly enjoyed the structure of the courses and the fact that we all got to be involved in the discussions of the subjects. It helped to not fall behind in the study pace and to refresh my mind on what we had learned. Kozminski University is also quite unique in the fact that it is a business school. All of the friends I made at the university were also studying in order to build a career for themselves in economy. I made some great connections that I hope, and believe, will be useful in my future career in economy. However, the level of education was a bit lower than that of Stockholm Business School. Most of the teachers had quite a thick accent when they were speaking English as well as lacked in an advanced vocabulary. I also got the impression that I did not need to study as much, and therefore did not learn as much, as I do at Stockholm Business School. It came as a surprise to me when I noticed, during the

first lecture, that the students had a tendency to chat with each other during class. Some of them also did not mind chatting with each other while a classmate was doing a presentation. At first, this was extremely frustrating to me but it turned out to be a great lesson for me, as I learned how to get my classmates' attention and respect during a presentation.

The cost of living in Warsaw is significantly lower than in Stockholm. Food, restaurants, apartment fees, taxi and public transportation were all almost the half of the price than what they are in Stockholm. Life felt a lot more relaxed and comfortable in Warsaw as economy was not as big of an issue and occupation of my focus as it can be in Stockholm. I often went out with my friends to have dinner at restaurants and I could also afford to do some shopping since I did not spend as much money on food and rent as I do in Stockholm. Warsaw is a perfect city for students to live in. There are many good restaurants and Warsaw is famous for being an up and coming culinary city. The night life is also great with everything from bar streets with shots for 5 PLN (11 SEK) to luxurious rooftop nightclubs on the 30th floor.

I would recommend choosing Kozminski University to anyone who is looking to make friends and connections from all over the world, enjoy a wonderful and unique social life and get a practical economic education.

Warsaw recommendations:

- Sunday Brunch at Hotel Bristol
- The View (nightclub with an amazing view)
- Dinner at InAzia Restaurant
- Shopping at Vitkac
- Klub Luzztro (for the very late nights)

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