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CKOCRA

Erasmus+ in Augsburg, Germany

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The Erasmus internship program in Augsburg is one of my best experiences in medical university life. Working in the clinic is one of the most important experiences medical students can experience before starting to work in the field. Although I was lucky to participate in those practices at Semmelweis university, it was a whole other life in Germany. I spend almost 3 full months, doing the biggest blocks in my last year, internal medicine, and surgery.

My day started with taking blood at 7:30 every morning. I was assigned to as many stations as possible because I wanted to experience what I would like to do before starting to work as a physician. Because it was a university and teaching clinic, there were always new things for me to try and assist. Bone marrow biopsy, ascites puncture, central catheterization, kidney biopsy, ultrasound, echocardiogram, vascular surgeries, and many more. There were always new things waiting for me and I am very glad I could join in the team to carry out those processes. I was lucky to join several night shifts at the emergency medicine department and saw how various types of patients with numerous etiologies were admitted. Of course, not all the days were the best days for everyone and had to face difficult cases with more tragic endings with some patients. I feel that these memories and the past 3 months made me more mature and stronger, made me think more for the patients, and be more aware of what I would like to do in my future career.

I would like to emphasize it was not only medical things I learned from this practice. Organizing the program was not easy especially as a foreign citizen not coming from the EU. I got scammed right before my practice started for my housing. The immigration office took almost 6 months to process my residence permit, so I had to renew my status every 90 days. I almost thought about just canceling everything, but Erasmus office always supported me and tried to give me the best solution possible whenever I inquire about my problems. Even after moving, living in a new country, in a new city with no acquaintances was definitely challenging. I had to stay strong and well even in times I was alone and lonely. This wouldn't come naturally when we are always surrounded by family and friends. It is good to have a support group but at one point in life, people must learn to live alone as well. I think it was an opportunity and a blessing in disguise that came to me in my last year.

I am glad I took this challenge and appreciate the kindness the Erasmus team showed me throughout this journey.