

Barna Baires Veterinary Clinic, Spain

Emilija Jazavitaite, Graduate of the Faculty of Agrotechnologies

My first days in Spain were quite hectic. Having no idea how the transport system works, not knowing proper Spanish, always wondering if I'm going the right direction or whether I will be on time. Then I went to the clinic and met most of the vets and assistants on the first day. Everybody was kind and respectful to me, of course not all the staff knew English. And saying not all is an understatement. So, I started going to clinic every day, helping with casual tasks, looking after hospitalised animals, trying to absorb all the knowledge that I can. But soon enough I found it extremely hard not being able to talk to people more than just a few scattered words – perro, jeringa, quirófano etc., (dog, syringe, surgery room). I started taking Spanish lessons online and devoting some time every day to dig deeper into this language. The more I learnt the more trust and belief I gained from the staff of the clinic. I took up running blood and other samples in the laboratory, learned the names of surgical instruments and become an asset there. Everybody was greatly hospitable and involved me in everyday chats and small talks, breakfasts, lunches or dinners, whatever might be depending on my working hours that day, as well as more serious councils about certain animal and its case.

I find this Erasmus internship experience to be extremely broadening and eye-opening, in a way that one can't stay in a little bubble of theirs in order to become useful and more importantly significant in completely different surroundings. Moreover, I improved my skills and knowledge of being a veterinary assistant in every way. My communication has refined so much by the struggle of trying to be understood and understand others every day. I learned so much about Spanish culture and its people. These three months even in the eyes of global pandemic went through so fast, but so valued and precious. I'm highly grateful of being given this amazing and unforgettable opportunity!

