

Erasmus+ praktika IFSI Dreux Deimantė Pociūtė, Sveikatos priežiūros fakultetas

My name is Deimantė and I am last year year nursing student in „Vilniaus kolegija. I had a wonderful opportunity to participate in Erasmus+ program along with my colleague. We returned to the same small city in France – Dreux where we had spent 2 months in 2019. This time our traineeship was longer – 4 and a half months. Of course, with all the pandemic going on it was quite difficult, but my colleague and I still tried to make it the best experience.

As I remember we arrived on 29th of August and started our internship in the hospital on the 1st of September. We had to work 40 hours per week – 35 hours in the hospital and 5 hours in the university (French lessons). The greeting was just as amazing as the first one in 2019. We were greeted by our coordinator Mr. Stephane Bertel and told everything we need to do and given all the necessary information. There were no misunderstandings.



I worked in Intensive care unit, so you can imagine how hard it was – not only I had a language barrier, but also the unit was difficult. Well I can't say that I didn't speak or understand French at all in the first weeks, I just needed to remember the language. I think the first month made me want to go home, I was tired, not very motivated and emotional, I was ready to just give up. And after a month - month and a half everything started to get better and easier. I started to understand and speak more, every nurse and nurse assistant in the unit told me I made a lot of progress, so that made me feel better and prouder of myself. I started to take more initiative and wanted to do more and learn more.



I've had a lot of help from other French nurse students there, they were so kind to me, I think that's one of the reasons I made progress after a month. Also, I had a few tutors, they were also very kind to me, always helping me and giving me good advice, and they tried to explain me subjects until I understood everything completely. So, I am very thankful for that.

In November there was a big lockdown in France and we didn't have a lot of places to visit, but I am not complaining a lot, my colleague and I had a few very good friends here, who we would spend time on the weekends, of course, without violating the law. And I guess with lockdown it was easier to write my bachelor thesis!

We also spent Christmas and New Years here. Our Erasmus coordinator Stephane and his family were kind and invited us to spend holidays with them, so it was unexpected and wonderful surprise for us. We appreciate how kind everyone was to us, but I guess we knew that they were this nice, that's why we decided to return here and not go to a new place.

In overall I am glad and very happy with my experience in Dreux. If I had one more opportunity to go there – I would. And who knows, maybe I will?? 😊