

My Erasmus+ mobility experience in Malta has been one of the most transformative periods in my academic and personal life. I spent one full year studying Business Enterprise at the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST), and the opportunity allowed me to grow academically, develop cultural awareness, and build confidence in my abilities as an international student in a new environment.

As a Third Country National arriving in Malta, I was immediately struck by the welcoming atmosphere of the island. The country is known for its rich history, warm (sometimes hot) climate, and multicultural community, and I quickly felt comfortable navigating my new surroundings. Although adapting to a new country came with challenges, such as some immigration clauses not noted in time, adjusting to local systems and learning how to manage daily life independently, these experiences became an important part of my growth.

Academically, studying Business Enterprise at MCAST was a rewarding experience. The program offered a practical approach to learning, which helped me understand how theoretical concepts apply in real business situations. My lecturers were supportive, helping me catch up to speed with concepts I struggled to familiarize with and encouraged active participation, teamwork, and the development of critical thinking skills. Throughout the year, I worked on several projects that focused on entrepreneurship, business planning, innovation, and strategic decision making. These projects helped me gain a deeper understanding of how businesses operate and how effective leadership and good management decisions contribute to the success of an organization.

One of the highlights of my academic experience was the group work. MCAST emphasizes collaboration, so I had many opportunities to work with students from different cultural backgrounds. This taught me how to approach tasks more creatively and efficiently. I also learned how to manage time effectively while balancing coursework, assignments, and personal responsibilities. Another one of my favorites was the time I spent volunteering at historical museum Palazzo Falson, Mdina, as part of the Corporate Social Responsibilities course requirements. I really got an in-depth exploration of the history of Malta and the significance of the English empire, a similarity with my own country.

Beyond academics, my Erasmus+ experience gave me the chance to explore Malta and learn more about its culture. I visited several historical sites, such as Valletta, Mdina, Marsascala and the Three Cities. I also enjoyed the natural beauty of places like Comino

and some of the popular beaches such as Golden Bay and in Mellieha. These experiences helped me appreciate the unique identity of Malta and its blend of tradition and modernity. Living in a multicultural environment also helped me build friendships with people from different countries, and this expanded my global perspective.

I am grateful for the many memories, camaraderie I got to experience, as well as the friendships and lifelong bonds that I managed to establish during my short stay in Malta. Malta is known not only for having one of the highest church-to-land areas ratios in Europe, with roughly 1 church per square kilometre, but also as one of the party centrals of Europe and that is true. From Saint Peter's day celebrations in St. Julians, firework festivals at the Festa's in celebration of patron saints of their villages, relaxing days at Cafe Del Mar to the random Tuesday's in Paceville. Every day in Malta was a celebration worth having!

Personally, my mobility year helped me grow in independence and confidence. Moving away from a zone I had established comfort in required me to once again learn how to manage finances in a different currency, organize my schedule, and solve problems on my own. At times, I faced challenges I thought would ruin everything; including my life, but these moments taught me resilience and adaptability. I learned how to stay focused, manage stress, and remain determined even when tasks felt difficult.

My Erasmus+ mobility also improved my professional skills. I became more confident in public speaking, teamwork, and research. These are skills that I believe will be valuable in my future career in business, entrepreneurship, or management. I now feel more prepared to approach opportunities with a positive mindset and a strong sense of discipline, knowing that asking the right questions can really make a huge amount of difference and asking for help is never a weakness!

Overall, my Erasmus+ year in Malta was an incredible journey that shaped me both academically and personally. It helped me gain knowledge, develop important skills, and experience life in a new cultural setting. I am eternally grateful for the support I received from MCAST, the Erasmus+ program, and the people I met during my stay. This experience has strengthened my academic pathway and inspired me to continue growing as a business professional. I would recommend the Erasmus+ mobility program to any student who wants to expand their horizons, build international experience, and challenge themselves in a meaningful way.