

Student mobility that I got was Traineeship at University of Messina. It lasted for 2 months, from 6<sup>th</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> July. During this internship I needed to do research for my Master thesis. My colleague from University of Sarajevo, Selma Colo, was also on the same program with me.

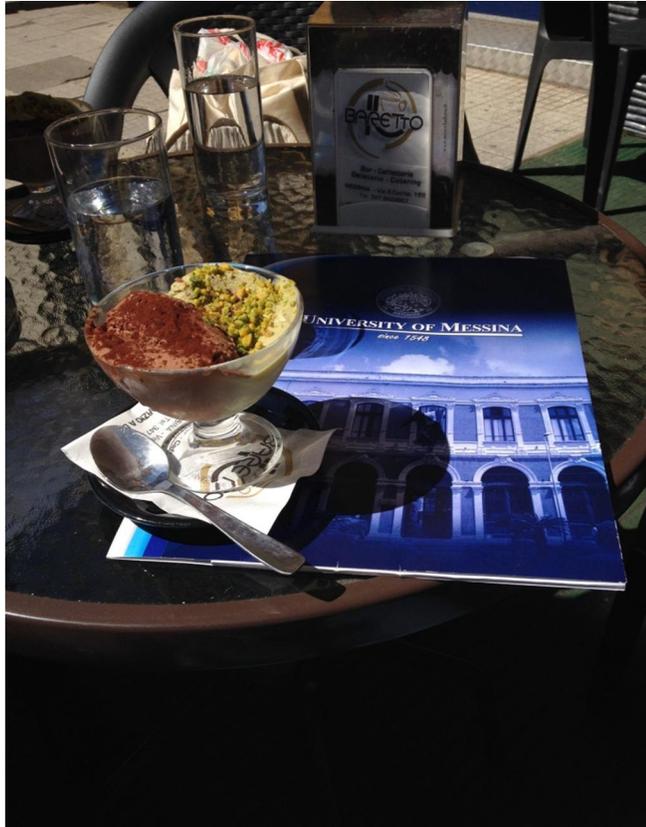
At the beginning, it was difficult to get used to the new environment. However, I was lucky because my roommate had been there for a year, so he gave me basic guidelines on how to get used to live in Messina. Messina is a small town and very few people speak English, so in some way, I was forced to start learning Italian in everyday situations. At first it was complicated, but over time I realized that it was a very interesting language and I loved it. A new experience for me was also living with a roommate, cooking for myself and managing around the new city. I paid a membership fee to the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) group, on the basis of which I had discounts at certain local places. With that, I got the right to free public transport in Messina, which is really cool. ESN is also a great thing for meeting other Erasmus students and sharing experiences. At the end of my stay in Messina, I got so used to it that I was sad to leave Messina.

Messina University has a separate site for a group of technical sciences with equipped laboratories, the so-called "Dipartimento di Ingegneria". At Messina University we were mentored by prof. Giuseppe Aronica and prof. Brunella Bonaccorso. They were very supportive and open to help on solving problems we encountered while working in software. The research was based on modelling a flood event for a particular river, San Leonardo in the Sicily area. My task was to collect the necessary data, process it and prepare it for software entry. I had the opportunity to gain the basics of working with several *GIS software* for hydrological, hydraulic and flood *modelling*. *I worked with HEC-HMS, HEC-RAS, HEC-GEO-RAS, ARC GIS and Q-GIS*. It was a whole new experience for me because I have not worked in *this* software so far. Traineeship only lasted 2 months, so we were not able to complete the research until the end, but I certainly continued at home university.

During my stay in the Messina I had the opportunity to enjoy the things that Sicily provides. I visited the local museum „Interdisciplinary Regional Museum of Messina“, „Mueso 500“, theater „Vittorio Emanuele“, cathedral „Duomo di Messina“ and local parks and squares. I managed to organize day trips with friends I met in Messina to Palermo, Catania and Taormina. What really thrilled me was the climb to volcano Mount Etna, from which an incredible sight can be afforded. Messina is the closest town from the island to the mainland, so it took about 10 minutes by boat to Reggio Calabria, which is a really nice little town. Also, I managed to arrange a two-day trip to Napoli.

This traineeship only lasted 2 months, but it gave me an unforgettable experience. I was able to learn something new, make new friends, visit new places, but what is also important I managed to develop personally and professionally. That is why I recommend everyone to try some of the Erasmus study program.

The experience gained through this traineeship gave me a huge boost to self-confidence and my CV. It will also help me to stand out in the job market and succeed in an increasingly competitive international marketplace. The research I did during the traineeship will greatly improve the quality of my Master thesis. I can say that I have returned more motivated, independent and confident, having improved my language skills and gained an international network of friends.



During the traineeship I had the opportunity to meet new people and to visit various very interesting places, which I would love to visit again one day. In Messina, I visited Museum, Theater, Cathedral and popular local squares. I also had the opportunity to visit Napoli, Reggio Calabria and nearby cities in Sicily: Palermo, Catania, Taormina and climb the Etna volcano. I tried Sicilian cuisine and street food, as well as Sicilian traditional delicacies.



Messina



Reggio Calabria



Interdisciplinary Regional Museum of Messina



Mount Etna volcano



Napoli

Although traineeship lasted only 2 months, I was able to gain a basic knowledge of working in the software used at University of Messina for flood event modeling. Now I'll have to work on improving my skills in this software.



University of Messina



Department of Engineering – location where I was doing my research

During the Traineeship I met a lot of new people, and I am still in touch with some of them. In addition to the professors and mentors at the University of Messina, who were excellent, there is also my roommate who helped me a lot during first days of my stay, and other students I met during the traineeship.



My colleague, my roommate and I on a day trip to Palermo.

This traineeship has helped me to improve my English. In addition to improving my communication skills, I have learned and used many professional terms. Although I have not had the opportunity to learn Italian so far, I can say that during this period of traineeship I was able to acquire the basics of this language, which I am extremely pleased with.

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