

Summer work-experience in the UK with Erasmus+ program

How do you imagine a perfect summer working experience? What's the most important thing for you if you are travelling abroad? Would you work abroad? I'm going to answer all of those questions from my perspective, as well describe my experience in the Erasmus+ program.



From my school, me and 20 of my schoolmates took part in the Erasmus+ working experience program. It was really exciting to be selected for the program, because it took place in the United Kingdom, and most of the group haven't been to England before the program. We've heard a lot of commonplaces about English people and habits, so we wanted to take a look at them with our own eyes.

While we were there, we've stayed at local families in smaller groups of two or three students, but some of us had to live alone with the family. Almost all of the host families had some other students from all around Europe staying there too, and it was an awesome opportunity to speak with other similar-aged students, and get better at understanding not native English-speaking people.

As for my experience, I've stayed at a friendly old couple with one of my groupmates, and two Italian boys. The atmosphere was awesome, we've had a great time there. The house was a typical English one, with small windows, and a brick outside. From inside it was quite cosy and small, but we could manage. We got on well with the house lady, and the Italian boys. We've always had dinner together, which was cooked by the kind lady. Personally, I really liked the little talks we've had during the dinner, because we could talk about politics, people, sports, almost anything. I've never had an experience with living with families other than mine, but this was a really positive and new experience.



I really like travelling, and for me (luckily) every morning was a little journey. I've had to take a 10-minute walk from our house to the bus stop, where I got on the number 1 bus, then after just half an hour I've hopped off at its final destination, The Hard Interchange. From our group, I was the lucky one, who got to go to work by the ferry, which took me to the neighbouring isle, Gosport. So, all in all my journey took 1 hour in one way every day. I've worked on the Gosport High street in one of the phone repairing and selling shop, called „Fone Shop”. My boss was Tahir, a nice gentleman from Pakistan. He



taught me about repairing phones, especially changing out broken screens, which was the most common problem people had. I've learnt about unlocking phones too. It was an interesting job, but I was a little disappointed. I was expecting a more technical work, where I could use my imagination and creativity. Most of the time I had to do cleaning up, and sorting out. I've gladly done those the best I could too, but it wasn't really the job I went there for. I hoped to see and learn things that I can't learn by myself. Apart from that, it was a useful experience, because I had the chance to speak with a lot of English people, and improve my language skills. For example, I really enjoyed getting lunch for my boss, because then I had to speak in English, and it was an exciting experience. So, it wasn't a dream job, but I've always wanted to try out job like this.



At the weekends - as cultural programs – we visited some important/interesting places. Although we didn't have enough time to relax – as we do at home - all in all I think everybody was satisfied with these „little” trips. Looking back at the cultural programs, I can tell, that I've had a lot of fun. Sometimes it was really tiring, for example in Winchester, everybody was really tired and exhausted, mostly because of the grate humidity.

Personally, my favourite trip was when we visited the Isle of Wight with the hovercraft, and when we travelled with the double-decker open top bus.

The other really exciting trip was the trip to London. I knew that London is a huge city, but when we were in it, it felt really gigantic. Sadly, one day wasn't enough to discover everything, but still, it's a memorable experience. Beside these, we've also visited Brighton, where we could swim in the Atlantic Ocean. We visited the historical university town of Oxford and of course we had sightseeing in Portsmouth as well. For example, we visited the historic dockyard, the D-Day museum and the Pier.



To sum it up, this was a path worth taking. I've never been to this kind of a country. The people were happy, relaxed and almost everybody smiled at me. I've experienced a better life quality and a higher lifestyle.



I think the structure of this Erasmus+ program was well-built, because there were a lot of occasions where we had to do things by ourselves - getting more self-dependent and self-confident -other times with a team, working together. Happily, there was no language barrier between me and the English people, so I could see through their eyes, and experience their culture, which made the whole program more immersive.

I am really glad that our school applied for the scholarship and together with the English partner **Language solutions***- whom we met during our pervious Erasmus+ scholarship - helped us in this program, although I know it means a lot of overwork for our teachers.

If I would have the chance, I would go again while I'm at university, preferably to somewhere in the United States. I think Erasmus+ is a great opportunity to learn a lot about yourself and foreign cultures and people.

I really recommend this to everybody who wants to improve their language skills, and become more experienced in the field. If you want to be more independent, and want to try out yourself, this is the best work experience for you!

By *Ádám Demeter*

*One aim of the successful Erasmus+ (KA1) teacher mobility program with the title Language and Methodological Revival in Boronkay in 2018 was to build relationships which enable farther cooperation.
(editor)