

CEEPUS, CIII-Free Mover

SCHOLARSHIP REPORTName **Krisztina Petra GULA**Nationality **HUNGARY**Date of birth **11.07.1995**

Stay from

1 March*Tag/Monat/Jahr*

Stay to

30 June*Tag/Monat/Jahr*

The scholarship report (progress report, 1-2 pages) has to be completed by you and signed by you and your supervisor. Please scan the completed and signed scholarship report and send it with email to your OeAD-Regional Office to effect the payment of your last scholarship instalment. Please note that received scholarships may have to be paid back should the scholarship report not be submitted!

First of all, I can state without doubt that the summer semester, which I have been spending in Austria, at the Karl-Franzens-Universität of Graz, has been a truly prosperous, inspiring and creative period with regards to my academic career and both to my professional and personal development.

The experience that I have gained in those four months of my stay was basically two-folded. On the one hand, I have had the chance to get to know a wonderful country and a beautiful city more thoroughly and get immersed in its historic past, as well as in its exciting and vivid everyday life. On the other hand, experiencing the university student life in Graz has given me a real spur and contributed significantly to the maintenance of – and also to the increase in – my interest in my field of study.

Since I am a law student, I first and foremost dealt with legal subjects throughout the term. Hence, I had different classes in international law; I was attending lectures on public international law besides participating in a course on the contemporary issues of international law. I believe that these classes provided a significant contribution to my studies in my home country as international law is a subject that I could study only in my next academic year, so I will most probably have a remarkable range of knowledge by the time I can start dealing with this area at my home university.

One characteristic of the university education that has turned out to be the most appealing to me is the interactive nature of the seminars, the focus placed on the group work and discussion, and the preparation of oral presentations by the students, which was one of the most important element in case of the aforementioned course. The interactivity – as I experienced – has an immense role in the fact that students learn how to express themselves and how to shape their thoughts in a proper and sophisticated manner. As this cannot really be considered to be a merit of the university education in my home country, it was a really pleasant – though, at first, a bit surprising – phenomenon. Nevertheless, I believe that putting together various presentations for my classes and then discussing it with the fellow participants helped me to become more open-minded, improve my presenting and debating skills, and also gave me some clues and ideas that I would be able to hint in the university education of my home country.

The other course of similar characteristics that I attended was based on citizenship law and issues in the context of South-Eastern Europe, especially the states of the former Yugoslavia. The basic and most favourable characteristics of the course were – just like in the previous case – holding a lecture in front of my fellow students, then having a common debate about the raised problems and concerns. While the first described class increased my knowledge in the area of democracy, the rule of law and its institutional background, this one helped me to focus on a very specific region with unique historical background, as well as putting it into the broader context of political, economic, social and cultural features. It contributed to the shaping of another, more mature mentality, taught the participants to have a critical attitude, to raise questions in a well-though and academically correct form, and learn how to find a collective solution for the issues raised – or, at least, to establish a common core of thinking.

Writing a seminar paper for both classes was another important element, and meant contribution from a completely different aspect; namely, the development of my academic writing skills, the learning of the relevant methods and techniques, as well as how to put complex argumentations into a direct, understandable form and manner.

My seminar in public international law was quite different in nature, though not less useful. It introduced the participants with and helped them to gain a deeper insight into the functioning of the international legal order, the various treaties which it is based on, and – with the oral exam to be held at the end of the class – it is also a challenging and interesting component in my study abroad term.

Besides, I took part in a German language course that was organised every week during the whole of the term. Due to the fact that I am planning to accomplish a German language exam in my home country at the beginning of my next academic year, I consider this class to have been a really useful and worthy preparation, especially in terms of my reading and writing skills. Since students were assigned various tasks that had to be completed both in and outside the class, this meant a regular basis for studying and advancement.

Last but not least, I attended two psychology classes in German that was largely due to my interest in the field and my intent to make my language knowledge better. As I did this as a "spare time" activity, it was a really exciting and fascinating experience, besides the fact that I could connect many of the presented information to my studies in the field of law.

Based on these factors, I truly believe that my semester abroad has been a vivid, exciting period of time that helped me to advance and has given me immense inspiration that would help me throughout my academic career in the future.

Confirmed by

Confirmed by

(Ao.Univ.Prof.Dr. Roberta MAIERHOFER)
Datum, Unterschrift, Stempel des Instituts

(Krisztina Petra GULA)
date, signature

