

Višja strokovna šola Slovenj Gradec že nekaj let uspešno sodeluje s šolo ISCAP Porto. Tako njihova šola pomaga urediti prakso naših študentov v Portu in naša šola pomaga njihovim študentom, da opravijo prakso v Slovenj Gradcu. Svoje vtise o Erasmus praksi sta Patricia in Claudia opisali sami:



**By:**

**PATRICIA ALEXANDRA NETO SALGADO**

When we are looking for a job we are usually asked if we have work experience. It is an advantage to know how companies work and acquire practical knowledge besides the studies in college, which are fundamental.

But experience in this context doesn't mean only "professional experience" but also "life experience": this will be reflected in your personality. With this in mind, I decided to register in the ERASMUS Internship program in my college in Portugal. During this internship I wanted to develop mainly my language skills, get in touch with the business world and a new culture.

Johnson Controls enterprise in Slovenia was the first option of the program and I decided to come. This decision didn't have a professional intent only; it's mainly a personal experience. In this company I had the opportunity to be in some departments and also in production. In Johnson I realized how a big company works and how stressful the problems in the business world could be. But the best learning I've got is that when there is a great team spirit the working environment is much more pleasant.

The small town of Slovenj Gradec, with its stunning green surroundings and friendly people made this experience amazing since the first moment. When I came in I had a negative idea of Slovene people, according to some comments I've heard. However, I decided not to judge before meeting somebody. All the people I've met, one way or another, have tried to make my life in Slovenia as

good as possible: with friendship, with words but mainly with a big smile. I'm glad that this idea that I had about Slovene people has now been completely changed.

However, nor everything is good when we decide for such an "adventure". To be away from home is always difficult, but this is an opportunity in a life time.

So if you are interested in this kind of program, don't waste time. Enjoy it.

---

By:

**CLÁUDIA CRISTIANE FERREIRA**

Going to the College is a huge decision in our life: it is a period of discovery and going through new experiences. It is a moment when the best opportunities to acquire new knowledge should be exploited. Being in the College opens the doors to a new world.

Deciding to do an International Internship in Slovenia represented for me a real challenge. Despite living in Portugal for 6 years, I was born in Brazil, in a completely different cultural context from the European. But I always believed that learning about new cultures makes us mature people and throughout an International Internship we have direct access to culture of others countries, experience others ways of living, feeling and being.

When they presented this option in the college, I had to Google Slovenia, because I didn't know anything about the country. I fell in love with the pictures and landscapes that I saw on the Internet and, after analyzing the information I realized that I decided to accept the challenge. Why not?

In Portugal, I had some information about the Slovenian people and this left me a little worried. According to this information, the Slovenian people are very closed and reserved, unfriendly with strangers and extremely formal.

That was how this amazing experience began: with few information about the country where I was going to live 3 months of my life, but with an enthusiastic desire to learn, to integrate in Slovenian society and to know new people.

My biggest worry was the language. But I needed an opportunity to practice my English and this could be the ideal time for that. At least, I had only two options:

- To learn Slovenian Language (which proved to be really complicated)
- Communicate in English (best option – almost all Slovenians speak English)

It was a surprise for me to meet in Slovenj Gradec such nice, happy, friendly and polite people. I can say that the people we found here are the reason why this experience was so pleasant. It was also through new friends that I had the opportunity to get to know a lot of places in Slovenia as well as in Austria and Croatia.

In the company Johnsons Controls, I found also the same receptivity and sympathy. The ambiance is welcoming and everybody wanted to explain to us how the business worked and to improve the quality of this professional experience. I had already the opportunity to be in the quality, financial and logistic department. In each one I did different tasks and could contribute with my work and express my opinion.

To live these 3 months in Slovenia have been really good in cultural terms and from the beginning I had tried to understand the thinking of Slovenian people: this passion for nature, physical activities, sports and mountains. I'm all the time open for new experiences and I confess that I'm completely in love for the breathtaking landscapes, charming towns and for these people to whom the true relations still are one of the most important virtues.

For those who wish to join this adventure, I recommend to learn about the country and get as much information as possible. Don't be afraid to go to a country because of language and culture quite different from yours. You just need to have an open mind to change your routine and enjoy nice moments.

I advise all students to try this experience, not just for the professional practice, but mainly because of human experience that it can provide.

