

Mariana's report

This experience did not only begin on March 17th, the day of the trip. It began on the day my friend Érica, who also participated in this adventure, called me to give the news that we had been selected. I still cannot explain exactly what I felt at that moment! And I'm happy to say that it was only real when I sat down on the first plane, Porto-Madrid. It was a new experience for me, once I had never flown before.

From the experiences / previous reports of my colleagues, I always got the idea that on the first day everything is very strange, but then with the passage of time, when you get to know people, everything changes. That initial thought of "I want to go home" changes completely and in the last days the thought is "I want to stay". But I only realized it when I really experienced it, the moment I entered this spectacular adventure.

One of the most important things that Erasmus gave me was the friendships, Rita and Henrique, and this experience brought me closer to these people, with whom I created very strong bonds and I ended up reinforcing those bonds with those I already knew. Then, of course, I made friends with the students from other countries, and one of the things that fascinated me on this trip was how in the space of so little time we were able to make these friendships. And if there is something that I do not want to happen at all, it is losing contact with these people. The fact that I was in contact with people from different cultures was really an asset to my life.

My stay in this country was another aspect that contributed a lot to my life. That was one of the things that makes Erasmus the project that it is. To have been completely inside a culture quite different from mine, to be accustomed to certain routines or simply to certain acts in my country and to reach another, and in a week to face a different reality. It was spectacular, and I still do not know well how to explain this feeling, because there it is, only by entering this wonderful experience is that you can have 100% the notion of what it is to live this adventure.

To conclude, I have to say that Erasmus has opened up my horizons, in the sense of wanting to repeat this adventure at the university. And it was a pretty good

thing to participate at the secondary school. Now I know what it is, which makes me a little more comfortable when I start again an adventure like this. Finally I have to thank the whole team, including the teachers, because what I lived would not be possible without them and without their work.

Mariana Teixeira