
Ruben Falvo

17/04/2023

Fondazione ITS Biotechnologie

Via Ribes 5, Colletterto Giacosa (TO)

Dear Examining Committee,

I am excited and thrilled by the opportunity to write this letter in order to gain access to the Erasmus Program. One of the motivations, one of the main motivations, that led me to be present among the desks of ITS on the day of the entrance test was precisely to learn that the ITS Foundation was allowing access to the scholarship, a scholarship that is not only represented by a cash award, but a scholarship that already figures in my mind an experience that I will carry inside me all my life.

The first rumors that came to my ears about the Erasmus Program date back to my high school days, and I will admit that, at first, more than getting me excited, it caused me dread: far from home, in a place where people do not speak your language, do not have the same habits as you, do not eat the same food as you, and, most importantly, alone, without family and friends. "But what will they find so interesting about it," I used to tell myself. Yet as I grew up, the conviction was sketched within me that in order to grow, and this time we don't mean the number of candles on the cake, but on a moral and personal level, there is a need to experience situations outside one's comfort zone. And certainly the Erasmus Program wants to motivate young people to experience something that would otherwise be difficult to achieve. However, the Erasmus Program, from the way I described it above, appears almost like a "traumatic" event, but I would like to emphasize how wrong it is to define it as such.

First of all, I have had the opportunity to learn, from those who have experienced it, only positive aspects: other people's awarenesses are the first factor that started a "woodworm" (with favorable meaning) in my head. Hence began the search to be able to pick up information useful to my goal, and subsequently dismay took over, since by dropping out of university I was also abandoning the opportunity and dream of participating in Erasmus. Now,

however, I am glad to be able to abandon this dismay and list my other motivations.

I was fortunate enough to take a few trips, first with my family and later with my friends, visiting places that although close to home had huge differences, fueling more and more my curiosity, hunger for knowledge and wanderlust. It was not only the different landscape and the architectural differences in monuments that fascinated me, but also the different faces and colors that appeared before my eyes, the sounds, words and speeches that my ears perceived and the tastes and combinations that I savored. I believe that travel is the most fascinating way to open the mind, and I add "travel not only broadens the mind, it shapes it" - Bruce Chatwin.

In addition, the Erasmus Program can figure as a springboard for being able to be placed in the world of work and in contexts different from those with which a student from the province is used to living. Not only does participating enrich one's resume with an international experience, but it also lays a solid foundation to start imagining a future away from home, trying to network and increasing my language skills.

In conclusion, I am convinced that the Erasmus experience can make me grow personally and improve my skills. I sincerely hope that my application will be considered and that I have not caused boredom.

Sincerely yours,

Falvo Ruben