

Studying in four different countries

Author's thoughts



Before going abroad, to pursue my Master's degree, I was living in tiny paradise called Cyprus. A little sandy island in the Mediterranean sea surrounded by three continents, offering strong sun light most of the year, amazing beaches, good-hearted people with great hospitality, chill and easy going life-style. However, the world was much bigger and attractive, in many and different sense, than I initially thought it would be. This came like a flash light upon me when

I visited four different countries in the context of my studies. I never thought before that: travelling; meeting new people; learning new things; accepting facts and mentalities from different cultures; will be exciting a large part of my dialy life. I have met people who gained my utmost respect and trust, and no matter how far away they are now they are still close and always in my thoughts.

— Stefanos Georgiou

What drove me towards that choice?

by STEFANOS GEORGIOU

Growing in a small island (*i.e.* Cyprus), I had a limited knowledge regarding the vast experience, new ideas, and cultural benefits I could assimilate while travelling abroad. Being in the last year of my under graduate studies, at the University of Cyprus, I had an aim of doing my post graduate degree in United Kingdom or any another English speaking country. In addition, alongside with the University, I had full time barista responsibilities at Starbucks cafeteria to collect money for my studies. While being in a family of six, with four sibling, I believed it was important to get funds by any means

to reduce the burden on my parents for doing my post graduate degree. The opportunity was given, to do my studies, while being eligible and qualified to receive a Erasmus Mundus scholarship, after I applied for PERCCOM (PERvasive Computing and COMMunications for sustainable development) program. A fact that made me super happy and left a huge smile on my face for many days.

The above-mentioned Master program offered studies with the subject of GreenIT and sustainable development with the opportunitie of studying in four different counties (France, Finland, Russia, and Sweden) for the duration for two years. Moreover, it was a unique chance to meet people from different cultures and backgrounds since it was an international program and one of its

purpose was of bringing together students from various countries. However, a bit skeptical about my choice, as a person who never lived abroad and who do not even know how to cook, I took the decision of exiting my confort zone and in the Semptember of 2013 I started my studies abroad. But who would know that I will end up addicted in living abroad and having the travelling aspect as part of my life?

During these two years of my post graduate studies, I acquired knowledge and experience that I would never had if I only stayed in a tiny island. My purpose is to share and motivate youngsters to get out of their comfort zone, travel a lot without thinking too much, meet a bunch of crazy people with no limits, and never forget to take your smile when-

ever you go or whatever the situation it is, because, in the end, we are just instances in this world and we should try to make all the best out of it!

First stop: France

Second stop: Finland

Third stop: Sweden

Forth stop: Russia

What I have learned?



Peter's and Paul's Fortress

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This place makes me nostalgic indeed, I would like

to spent more lovely moments in this beautiful city anytime in my life again and again. Being away from Saint-Petersburg it feels like something is missing from myself, a part of me is still somewhere there, staring the monuments, walking in the empty streets, but, never alone, always with my thoughts.

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