

My Erasmus experience at the University of Debrecen



- 1) Why did you come to the Faculty of Education for Children and Special Educational Needs of the University of Debrecen, Hungary? What made you want to study in Hajdúböszörmény?
 - ➔ I chose the University of Debrecen because I wanted to experience a different education system, improve my English and learn more about special education. Since I enjoy working with children and have always loved spending time with them, I wanted to develop my knowledge and skills in this field.
- 2) Why did you study here?
 - ➔ I studied here to gain knowledge and practical experience in the field of special education. During my Erasmus semester, I took courses related to special education, pedagogy, child development, school systems, and different teaching methods. Most of my courses were practical rather than theoretical, which gave me the opportunity to observe different educational settings, participate in classroom activities, complete my kindergarten practice and visit a primary school with special educational needs. These experiences helped me improve both my professional knowledge and my practical skills.



3) Tell us about your best experience at our university / in Hungary?

➔ Actually, it is difficult to choose just one best experience because I had so many unforgettable moments during my Erasmus. My best experience was meeting people from different countries and making lifelong friends. We spent time together, travelled, joined different ESN activities, learned about each other's cultures and created unforgettable memories that I will always cherish. In Debrecen, we became like a family.

I also had practical training in the kindergarten, and it became one of the most meaningful parts of my Erasmus. The children were so sweet and full of energy. They were the first children I worked with during my teaching practice, and I will never forget them. I even taught the children a few simple Turkish words and sang Turkish song with them. One little girl always greeted me by saying "Merhaba" (Hello). And it always made me smile. It was wonderful opportunity to share a part of my culture with them and learn about theirs as well. They will always have a special place in my heart.

I also had the opportunity to visit a primary school and learn more about working with children with special educational needs. It was a valuable experience that helped me better understand inclusive education, observe different teaching methods and gain new ideas that I can use in my future career.



In addition, I had the opportunity to visit different kindergartens with our professors. It was very interesting to see that each kindergarten had its own teaching style and learning environment. After one of our visits, we spent the evening together with our professors, talking, laughing, and even dancing. It was a wonderful experience because it showed me not only the educational side of Erasmus but also the warm and friendly atmosphere at the university.

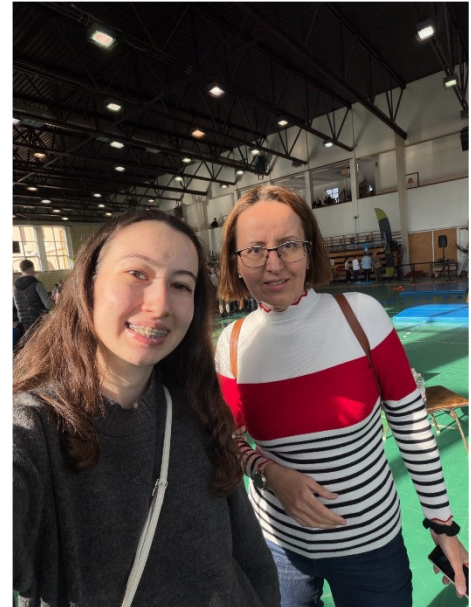


(April 27, Kindergarten in Hosszúpályi)

4) What was your worst experience during your Erasmus?

➔ My worst experience was the first few days after I arrived in Hungary. Everything was new to me. I didn't know how to use public transportation, most people spoke Hungarian, and I didn't know anything.

At first, I felt a little lost and overwhelmed. Fortunately, my Erasmus coordinator was very kind and helpful and their support made it much easier for me to adapt to my new environment. As time passed, I learned how everything worked, made new friends, and started to feel at home. Looking back, those first challenges helped me become more independent and confident.



5) I will never forget that Hungary was my first experience in Europe. It was the beginning of an unforgettable journey full of new cultures, amazing friendships, beautiful places, and valuable experiences. Thanks to my Erasmus experience, I also had the opportunity to visit several European countries, which made this journey even more unforgettable. One of the moments that will always stay with me was my first visit to Budapest. Seeing the city beautifully illuminated at night, especially the Parliament, felt like being in a dream. I will never forget the friends I made from different countries during my Erasmus.

Also, I will always remember the children I met during my kindergarten practice because they were my first teaching experience.



6) Imagine that one of your friends wants to do Erasmus in Hungary. What would you tell him/her?

➔ I would definitely recommend Hungary for Erasmus. It is a beautiful country with friendly people, affordable living costs and a rich culture.

I would tell my friend not to be afraid of trying new things because Erasmus is a once in a lifetime experience that helps you grow both personally and academically.

Finally, I would like to thank the University of Debrecen, my lecturers, my coordinators, my friends and everyone who made this experience so special. This Erasmus experience gave me unforgettable memories, valuable knowledge and friendships that I will never forget.

Fatma TUTAR

Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University

June 2026