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## 'Foreign students' ambassador'

Interview with Ayse Günlaltay, Erasmus intern at the International Relations Department

Interviewer: Krisztina Sándor

**Ayse Günlaltay, 23, an impressive young lady, born in Istanbul, holds a bachelor degree in German translation and Hotel management and makes the best Turkish coffee in Miskolc for sure! Besides that she can definitely apply for the title of 'foreign students' ambassador', if we take into account that she started her 'career' at the university as an Erasmus student in 2014, at present she implements a placement as an Erasmus intern at the International Relations Department and from September on she will be attending the MBA classes of the Faculty of Economics as an SH student.**

### Ayse, why Miskolc?

Well, the answer is really simple: in 2014, when I won an ERASMUS scholarship, my home university the University of Sakarya offered me to choose among 3 target countries: the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary. I opted for Hungary due to the cultural and linguistic similarities between the two nations. To tell the truth Miskolc was not really my decision, this was only an available option. But no question, it was a really good choice!!!

**You mentioned 2014 as your arrival date. But today it is 2016! How is it that you are still part of the international student community of the UoM?**

After completing my ERASMUS scholarship in Miskolc I went back to Turkey to get my degree and to

apply for another ERASMUS Scholarship. This time my choice was deliberate. I wished to come back here.



*Ayse Günlaltay, Erasmus intern*

**What made you return to Miskolc? The love of people living here, the vivid university life or something else?**

Yes, I think all these. I kind of fell in love with the city and with the atmosphere of the campus. I made a lot of friends here, I got to know the region, I felt myself really at home in the outrageous but still very cosy E6 where we, international students live like a big family. All in all, I longed for Miskolc, the friendly, warm-hearted people, the green campus, the vivid student life, the kitchen parties, the

excursions and the adventures. And of course there was a handsome Hungarian guy who was waiting and supporting me along the way... Thank you Arpad.



*Krisztina and Ayse*

## **What are your tasks as an intern at the University?**

I work for the International Relations Department. My job mostly consists of administering the incoming ERASMUS students' files. Besides developing my computer and language skills, I also gain a lot of experience in the fields of intercultural communication and communication strategies, which is rather useful keeping the fact in mind that hopefully in two-month-time I'll be a full time MBA student at the Faculty of Economics. I'd like to take the

opportunity here to say thank you to all those people who helped me in organizing my Erasmus placement. Thank you.

## **Is Miskolc really a great stepping-stone for ERASMUS students as we believe?**

Oh yes, no doubt it is! I've visited many nearby cities with my friends from the dorm such as Vienna, Frankfurt, Paris, Prague, Amsterdam, Brussels, Kosice etc. but of course I also explored the immediate surroundings of Miskolc such as Eger, Debrecen and Budapest of course.

## **You mentioned that Turkish and Hungarian are similar languages. Could you give an example?**

Sure. There are many, just to mention some: bıçak - bicska (penknife), çizma – csizma (boots), sal –sal (scarf). But the most striking example is: Cebimde çok küçük elma var. In Hungarian it is: Zsebemben sok kicsi alma van. (There are a lot of tiny apples in my pocket.) Even the word order is the same. Amazing, isn't it?

## **It is, really. Is there something that you really miss from Turkey?**

Yes, the sea, of course and maybe some special Turkish flavor, like the Ayran - a kind of Turkish yoghurt drink and Iskender, a special dish... But we often cook together in the dorm and then I prepare traditional Turkish dishes to my friends like Köfte, kind of meat balls, Turkish salad or bulgur.

## **Finally, what are your future plans? Are you planning to settle here in Hungary?**

I do not know yet, but it might happen. Now the focus is on my forthcoming SH studies and of course on the summer holiday. I plan to travel a lot, meet new people, get to know new cultures and absorb life as much as possible.

**Thank you for your time, Ayse! Good luck!**