Erasmus alumni — inspiring careers

Ákos Károly Bagó
Winner of the Hungarian Design Special Award in 2008, and the Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2007

“Studying abroad was a great experience and it gave me an international way of thinking.”

Hungary → Netherlands
2004 - 2005

Andrea Sironi
Rector, professor of banking and finance

“As my first international experience, my Erasmus year allowed me to understand the value of studying and working in an international environment. My advice to future Erasmus students is to take full profit of the international experience and not focus on the academic side only.”

Italy → Spain
1987 - 1988
Aneta Wilmańska  
Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment, Poland  

"Worldwide access to information and knowledge on the internet does not provide the same unique opportunities that are given by the Erasmus programme! Join the Erasmus society!"

Poland ✈ Thessaloniki  
1999 - 2000

Attila Béres  
Architect  

"Taking part in the course in Modern Nordic Architecture in Oulu as an exchange student was the most exciting, surprising and inspiring period of my life and definitely the runway of my career in architecture."

Hungary ✈ Finland  
2004 - 2005

Barry Lysaght  
Lawyer, FIFA Transfer Matching System  

"My Erasmus year was, without a doubt, my best year of college – an incredibly rewarding experience thanks to which I still have many great friendships, amazing memories and a lasting appreciation of obscure Danish hip-hop!"

Ireland ✈ Denmark  
2004 - 2005
Brechje Schwachöfer
Ambassador of the Netherlands to Cyprus

“My time as an Erasmus student gave me valuable first-time experience abroad, taught me French, and I made, most importantly, many good friends, several of whom I am still in contact with.”

Netherlands → Germany, Belgium, France
1992 - 1994

Cristina Giachi
Member of the Municipal Board of Florence

“Erasmus is broad horizons.”

Italy → Austria
1997 - 1998

Erzsébet Dobos
Former President of the Hungarian Investment and Trade Agency

“The most useful part of my Erasmus scholarship was exploring practice-oriented learning methods which improved my professional skills, such as problem solving, team-work, presentation skills, and language skills which I rely on in my current position.”

Hungary → Netherlands
2001
Francesco Cappé
Former head of security and counter-terrorism for the UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

“My life changed with Erasmus, including my lifestyle. My professional career benefitted enormously from this experience. Erasmus provided me with the tools and the necessary mentality to achieve what I have achieved so far. It is an experience that every student should get. I lived the vision of the European founding fathers. Once Erasmus, forever Erasmus!”

Jan Philipp Albrecht
Member of the European Parliament

“I studied law with a focus on European and international law in Bremen. In 2005 I went to Brussels for one semester as an Erasmus exchange student in order "to get closer to Europe", get to know other cultures and see European law from another perspective. That was very helpful. My time at the Université Libre in Brussels helped me to tie my studies to politics. During this semester I also was an intern at the European Parliament. Erasmus was a great experience for me and influenced my choices in life. I once said to a fellow student: "If I come back to Brussels this will be as a member of the European Parliament." Who would have thought that this would happen so soon!”
Lien Van de Kelder  
Actress

“My Erasmus experience has changed my life, has given me an open view and has made me believe even more in Europe.”

Belgium ➔ France  
2007

Mihovil Španja  
World Champion Paralympic swimmer

“Being part of the Erasmus programme was a privilege and also a great experience for me after my professional career in sport. My advice to potential Erasmus students is to follow their dreams and join this programme because it could be very helpful for them on a private and professional level.”

Croatia ➔ Germany  
2012 - 2013

Oliver Stotz  
Head of stotz-design.com and lecturer

“To learn about other cultures is imperative for a designer today and in the future. To study in other countries is the first step to work in the design business, and a great experience.”

Germany ➔ United Kingdom  
1992 - 1993
Piotr Franciszkowski
President of the board of DATEV.pl sp. z o.o.

“...What I appreciate most in Erasmus is the opportunity to gain practical knowledge and learn openness to other cultures, lifestyles, and a realistic approach to work. I see the results of it in my work today.”

Roberta Metsola
Member of the European Parliament

“I was fortunate enough to be one of the first generations of Erasmus students from Malta in 2002/03, even before Malta became a Member State of the European Union. My semester abroad was at the University of Rennes and. It was the first time I had lived and studied outside my home country. My experience was extremely positive. Erasmus gave me the opportunity to learn a new language, experience a new culture and make new friends. I credit the Erasmus programme with my decision to participate in European politics and decision making. Every student and academic should become mobile and spend time in an institution in another Member State - it has helped shaped minds and hearts and inspired a generation of Europeans.”
Tom Bird
Executive Producer, Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre, London

“Erasmus changed my life. No experience is comparable to living and studying in another country. It gave me an international perspective and an interest in cross-border collaboration that led to my playing a major role in the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad. I would recommend it wholeheartedly to any student.”

Zoli Tóth
Musician, entrepreneur and environmentalist

“The Erasmus experience showed me that there’s always something new to learn, even when you think you know it all.”

Anna Geary
Member of the Cork Senior Camogie Team

“A stint abroad broadens your heart as well as your mind, it opens the door to possibility and allows you to discover new people and new places. Create your own path!”