

“To be a student in Norway...”



The first thing that we are asked by our fellow students is: «How was it?» The answer to that question determines whether that person, too, will choose to study in Norway. I came to Norway through an organization in Albania called “help the life”. After I finished my study as a social worker I was thinking that it could be a great possibility to study in Norway. The Scandinavian countries are countries where the social welfare and social services have a special importance compared with other western countries. For this I did not hesitate to apply for the benefit of a scholarship. I knew a lot about Norway, wonderful nature even special presence of Fjord, their culture and individualistic spirit of people. But I never imagined that one day I would become part of a new society filled with challenging and unfamiliar things. I often listen people talking about culture shock. But was the only thing that I haven't experienced in Norway. Hospitality of professors and former students attending the same program made me feel very accepted in a society where all probably used to call "cold society". To be a foreign student in Norway makes you feel privileged. Exactly this I've

experienced during the ongoing study. The fact that the study reaches in their own language and although difficult, which is able to integrate in Norwegian society by respecting the rules and norms is a way to display the entire assessment for a new culture. Now in following second year in Diakonhjemmet Høyskole Rogaland as vernepleier. It is a term used for the profession of social worker in other countries. The profession has in focus work with people that have need of all kinds, have limitations which make them to be dependent on our professional assistance. Through two years of study and two periods of practice I have learned to grow even more professional empathy, creativity, I added the repertoire of knowledge, attitudes and ideas to contribute in the future. My studies in Norway have provided the opportunity to expand my knowledge and to compare the life of a student in Albania with that of a student in Norway. I can say that is a big difference. During my studies in Albania have experienced a period filled with lectures on exam stress and charged with very little support from professors to reach the goals of the study. Criticism of teachers is probably a feature that in Norway can say that exist to the extent that does not make a student feel worthless. In Norway I found all the necessary support connected with the school and social life. Professors are all the time interested in the progress of student fees. As a student in Norway you will never be short of lifetime experiences. No matter what your preferences are you should be able to find something of interest beyond books and classes. The freedom of nature is never far away, even in the major cities. If you are more urban oriented many cities have a vibrant cultural life with coffee bars and music clubs.

Written by Ema Dumani