

Hi, I'm Casto Fernández, I'm 22 years old and I'm a mechanical engineering student at the University of Almería (Spain). This past academic year I studied for 9 months at the Kragujevac Engineering Faculty with an ERASMUS scholarship.

Before going to Serbia I didn't know anything about this country, but after 9 months living there I would like to have the opportunity to return. For me it has been the best experience of my life.

When I arrived in Serbia all the people welcomed us great, all the people of the Kragujevac University made life much easier for us, buddies, teachers, coordinators ... And then I started to meet people from Serbia and many other countries (Italy, Greece, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia ...), in a few days we were a small family. Without being aware, not only I improved my English level, I also knew



*i. First day in Kragujevac with my Spanish flatmates Javi and Alfonso, and Sara and Milica buddies from de Faculty.*



how to order a beer in Serbian and the most popular dishes in Serbia, in love with the Serbian gastronomy and "kafana".

*ii. October 21 Ceremony in Sumarice Memorial Park with my flatmates and Fabio, Erasmus student from Italy.*

Between classes in the faculty, parties, meals, etc. with the Erasmus family, Christmas arrived very quickly and we began to say goodbye to some Erasmus colleagues who in a short time had marked our lives and we learned Christmas traditions in Serbia. When I returned to Spain to spend Christmas with my family I only thought of going back to Kragujevac.



*iii. Christmas Dinner with Erasmus Family in a "Kafana".*



When I returned to Kragujevac, winter came as I had never seen it, I live in a city on the southern coast of Spain where it never snows and it was amazing to enjoy the snow like a child in Kragujevac.

*iv. Enjoying the snow in Veliki Park.*

Later, the spring came, the weather improved and we were able to make many trips with my Spanish colleagues and Erasmus friends. I was able to enjoy with my partner the Euroleague Final Four of basketball in Belgrade in which Real Madrid won (my favorite team), it was a unique experience.



*v. Trip to Prague with my flatmates, Eleni (Greek student) and Izabela (Polish student).*



*vi. Final Four Belgrade.*



*vii. May 1, barbecue with Erasmus family in Sumaricko Jezero.*

And time flew, it was June, this wonderful year was ending and the farewells began, the return to home. I take friends from many countries, I feel that this has enriched me a lot culturally. I am very grateful to all the people I have met in Kragujevac and who have made my stay there very special and grateful to Serbia which is a great country and the people of Serbia are very welcoming and friendly.

*Casto Fernández López.*