

REPORT ON MY ERASMUS EXPERIENCE

1. What is your name and which program did you attend?

My name is Stefania Almonte and I attended the Overseas Program.

2. Where and when did you go during your Erasmus program?

I spent the Fall semester 2015 in the United States, more precisely at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM.

3. How did you like living there?

New Mexico is known as Land of Enchantment and the landscapes are, in fact, stunning. Although in the US, the city shows the Mexican and Indian Pueblo heritage.

The main problem is due to transportation: public buses are not efficient and to move outside the city you certainly need a car. To reach other major cities it is necessary to travel several miles surrounded by nothing but nature!

4. What about *the University*?

The University looks like a city within the city. The campus offers everything you will need for your studies. There are multiple libraries, a bookstore, computer pods with both Windows and Mac systems plus various programs and printers; classrooms are fairly new with good tech equipment.

Moreover, for your spare time, the campus offers to students a dining hall, free bus card, a gym, pools and soccer/basketball/volleyball fields, and a dedicated building called the Student Union building.

5. What is the level of the courses? Did you find similarities to those in Tor Vergata?

The courses are similar, both in programs and level. I have noticed that professors tend to link every topic explained with an economic event that happened in the recent past, making lessons even more interesting.

The main difference is the emphasis put on tests/projects to take during class period, usually with a weekly/biweekly frequency. They have, in total, more weight on the final grade than the final examination (which takes place on the same week for all the courses). These in-course examinations take several forms: multiple choice quizzes, essays (important!), group projects, etc.

Attendance is compulsory. Usually the professors set as 4 the number of possible missing classes. If you lose more than 4 classes without a certified reason, they will drop you out of their course.

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6. Is there any particular advise that you would like to give to another student who will go there in the future?

The main advice is being open to the different lifestyle that you will encounter. At a practical level, act quickly and be organized with regards to all the paperwork needed to obtain a Student Visa for the US!

Moreover, the Global Education Office at UNM is always ready to help international students.

7. Do you wish to be contacted for further information by interested students?