

REPORT ON MY ERASMUS EXPERIENCE

1. What is your name?

My name is Avinash Ambakanti

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

I went to the University of Liechtenstein in Vaduz, Liechtenstein, as part of my Erasmus exchange program from September 2023 to February 2024.

3. How did you like living there?

Living in Vaduz was a unique and enriching experience. The city is small but very scenic, surrounded by the Alps, Rhine River which provides a peaceful and picturesque environment. The cost of living was relatively high compared to Italy, but the quality of life was excellent. The people were friendly, and almost everyone speaks English, making communication effortless, and the public transport system was efficient, making it easy to travel around the region, including nearby Switzerland and Austria.

4. What about *the University*?

The University of Liechtenstein is well-structured, with small class sizes that allow for more interaction with professors. The university strongly emphasizes practical learning and research rather than solely relying on written and oral exams. Beyond the classroom, the University celebrates diversity, fosters creativity. From student led clubs (eg. START Vaduz), academic conferences to networking events such as StartUp Lab, Finance Research seminars twice every month on Tuesdays, UniSport, there are ample opportunities for students to connect.

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

The courses were not as rigorous as those at Tor Vergata but were sufficiently in-depth and well-focused, aligning well with my studies. While there were similarities in theoretical concepts, the University of Liechtenstein placed a strong emphasis on case studies, group projects, coding assignments, presentations, industry tours (e.g., a company visit to Hilcona), and real-world applications, in addition to oral and written exams, which collectively enhanced my learning experience.

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

- Be prepared for the high cost of living; budgeting is essential. The Erasmus grant is insufficient to cover even 1/3rd of the overall expenses.
- Take advantage of networking opportunities, as the university has strong ties to the financial and banking sector in Switzerland, Austria and Liechtenstein.
- If you enjoy outdoor activities, the Alps provide great summer hiking and winter skiing opportunities. Explore - Switzerland and Austria are just 15 minutes way.
- Please refrain from traveling to Liechtenstein if your primary objective is solely to engage in partying, as the region does not offer a vibrant nightlife or party scene