Erasmus+ Experience Feedback — Riga, Latvia, June 2025

Participating in this Erasmus+ intensive programme in Riga was one of the most enriching academic and cultural experiences of my studies so far. The week combined lectures, workshops, and cultural activities centred around literature, language, and European identity, and I left with a much deeper appreciation for Latvia and for the value of international academic exchange.

Academic Programme

The sessions were varied and intellectually stimulating. From the opening Introduction through to Receptive Multilingualism in Reading, Exploration of Identities, Modes of Writing, and The Role of Image Culture, each lecture brought together students and lecturers from different European universities, making the discussions genuinely dynamic. The Blackout Poetry workshop was a personal highlight — a creative exercise that encouraged us to look at language in a completely new way. The lecture on Europe's Cultural Historical Code sparked thought-provoking conversations about shared European heritage, and the Final Reading on the last day tied the whole week together beautifully.

Cultural Activities

The cultural programme was equally impressive. The National Library Tour was a standout — the building is an architectural landmark, and understanding its significance to Latvian national identity added real depth to our literary discussions. The Museum of Occupation was a sobering but essential visit that gave important historical context about Latvia's 20th century. The Riga Canal Tour offered a relaxed way to take in the city, and the day trip to Jūrmala — with its sea air, wooden houses, and long beach — was a wonderful bonus that showed a different side of Latvian life.

Social Experience

One of the greatest strengths of the programme was its international atmosphere. Sharing lectures and free time with students from across Europe created a sense of community that is hard to replicate in a regular university setting. Conversations started in the classroom naturally continued over meals and walks around the city.

Recommendations

I would encourage future participants to embrace every activity and conversation — the informal exchanges are just as valuable as the formal sessions. For organisers, a slightly longer free afternoon mid-week would give participants more time to explore Riga's Old Town independently.

Conclusion

I am truly grateful for this opportunity. It broadened my academic horizons, connected me with peers from across Europe, and gave me a genuine appreciation for Latvian culture and history. I would wholeheartedly recommend this programme to any student considering an Erasmus+ mobility experience.





