

My name is Furkan, and I am from Turkey. I spent 11 months in Urbino, Italy, which was my first time in the country. The Italians I met were just like anyone else, and I didn't encounter any unusual or absurd behaviors. The Italian language is beautiful, but it can be challenging due to the many dialects and the speed at which people speak. However, I didn't have any issues understanding non-verbal communication, thanks to the assistance from the ESN team.

If I were to describe Italy in three words, I would choose "beautiful," referring to the cities, "tasty," in reference to the food, and "challenging," when it comes to bureaucracy. This is especially true for non-European citizens who need to navigate these processes. I don't recall a particularly funny moment to share in this context.

Reflecting on my Erasmus journey, I view it as a positive experience for my future studies. It broadened my understanding of different cultures and teaching methods. I had the opportunity to learn from many excellent professors. On a personal level, the Erasmus experience taught me responsibility, discipline, time management, and the ability to live independently.

In conclusion, while I wouldn't label the Erasmus experience as the most beautiful one, I can confidently say that it was the most suitable adventure for my personal and academic growth. Observing the divide between European and non-European people, likely due to politics and history, made me realize that while I was representing my country, my country was also representing me. This understanding was a significant takeaway from my journey.