

Erasmus Review 17th February - 5th March 2018

Feedback Summaries:

1. Businesses
2. Hosts
3. Students

SUMMARY - BUSINESS

What Went Well?

- Students were great
- Coped with the language barrier (not to mistake shyness for lack of English as a barrier)
- Were interested in their respective business placement
- Students enjoyed being able to meet as a group in the afternoons and have downtime on their own

What Didn't Go So Well?

- Lack of English language made the placement harder but not insurmountably
- 9-5pm too long
- Not enough information from Erasmus about students work experience to date, their language skills and personal interests
- Maybe two weeks was too long for students with limited English language skills

What Improvements Can Be Made For Future Erasmus Placements?

- Better communication between hosts and business supervisors prior to students arrival
- Programme to run in warmer, busier times of the year..ie spring/summer
- Erasmus to provide full aims and objectives for students work experience placements
- Erasmus to provide details of students work experience, personal interests and language skills
- Meet and greet session before students start work.
- Better plans between businesses to ensure break and finish times are the same to allow the student group to meet up through their working day.
- Shorter working days
- Make more links with local college students and timetable in integrated activities.
- Schedule in some English language conversational sessions:
 - Through the college linking with the students

2: SUMMARY - HOSTS

What Went Well?

- Students were polite and easy to host
- As a group they supported one another during positive experiences and when anyone was struggling being away from home.
- Having two stay with one host family provided mutual peer support
- Good support between hosts acting as a support system

What Didn't Go So Well?

- Too much organised activities demanding much of the hosts
- Not enough one-to-one time between hosts and students

- Not enough information from Erasmus about students prior to arrival.

What Improvements Can Be Made For Future Erasmus Placements?

- Better information prior to arrival from Erasmus
- Better planning for organised activities..who does what, how much, how little etc.
- Contingency planning for unexpected difficulties regarding flights
- Erasmus to send hosting money directly to one account (Twinning finance account) so as to avoid students having to pay directly and each insuring exchange rate charges. Fred to then transfer monies to each host.
- Make more links with local college students and timetable in integrated activities.
- Schedule in some English language conversational sessions:
 - Through the college linking with the students
 - Hosts sharing language timetable via activities and local visits

3: SUMMARY - STUDENTS (translated from document sent from college)

This work experience allowed me professionally to:

All six young people were satisfied with the hosting workplace/enterprise for two principle reasons; the experience of different sales coupled with the different methods of these sales. Two young people highlighted that they experienced different methods of supply and production to that of French enterprises. Additionally, they all highlighted that all the placements were particularly warm/friendly. The work placements allowed them to gain independence as they had to deal with different surroundings and organisations.

This work experience allowed me culturally to:

What was raised the most was the life with the host families, for example, meal times could be shifted nearer those of the French !!! (Fred - could you perhaps confirm whether I've got the nuance of this correct !!!) But above all it was the hospitality of the host families, their attention to deal with any issues or demands (they thank once again the families for not hesitating in accommodating them for an extra weekend due to the severe weather) !!! They created strong links/bonds and they look forward to meeting their hosts again in France or England. By the way it seems that a meeting has already been organised for this summer in the Vendee. Then comes the language, this work experience has given some the desire to progress in English. Finally, they all enormously appreciated the events and evenings organised by the members of the Newtown Twinning Committee.

This work experience allowed me personally to:

What was principally raised was the gaining of independence, particularly in managing public transport ! Some say they gained much self confidence and maturity. Finally, all admit that the experience with a different culture and different language is a requirement for everyone in order to develop and understand others

I am satisfied with this work experience because:

All were very satisfied with the work experience and all highlighted how their needs were attended to despite their concerns before departure. Three of the six said they had realised a dream.