

Hello. Tell me something about yourself.

Hi, I'm Canberk. You already know me, because I've taken part in a few events organised by the Erasmus Office during the integration week here in Opole. I study English Philology – teacher training programme and I am quite a sociable and ambitious person. What I enjoy doing the most is travelling around the world – tomorrow morning I am travelling to Gdańsk to see the remotest parts of Poland and see my friends for instance.

What are the biggest differences you've noticed between Turkey and Poland?

To start, what drew the most of my attention is the absence of stray dogs and cats on the streets as compared to my country, where it is inevitable to encounter them anywhere you go. Luckily, locals help the poor animals back in my home country, which is very honourable.

Another thing I want to mention is the fact that in Poland, cars stop by the pedestrian crossing making walking in the city much safer. In Turkey, you need to pay close attention to the rushing cars and drivers are not eager to stop.

Why did you decide to take a part in Erasmus + Programme?

Erasmus+ programme exchange can allow you to find yourself in a multi-cultural environment, where it is easy to make new friendships that will last for a lifetime! As I am quite an insightful person, it is a perfect opportunity for me to learn about people from different cultural backgrounds and try to understand their perspectives that can teach you a lot about life, I just wanted to share other people's worldviews. Another reason why I decided to take part in the programme is to pursue my major, which is strongly connected to my interests.

What do you like doing the most in Opole/ how do you like to spend your free time?

What brings me a lot of joy while being here in Opole is taking walks (especially to Bolko Island ☺), taking pictures of nature, buildings, food - I can show you some of them. Having coffee during my stay here is something I do regularly with the friends that I've met recently and what I'd like to pinpoint is that local cafes are really cosy. Meeting people representing different cultures can also be counted as my interest and hobby. And as I've mentioned, I'm a huge fan of exploring new locations. Polish cities have a lot of interesting things to see.

Have you tried polish food? Did you like it?

Unfortunately, I haven't had any typical polish meal just yet. I haven't even tried those small dumplings. You call them 'pierogi', right? However, I would really want to try them as soon as possible, especially the ones stuffed with cottage cheese and potatoes. They are very tempting by their look.

What is the most memorable experience you've encountered while being in Opole?

I think that the most memorable experience, for now, is our visit to the Zoo. It was not too large but it reminded me of the one similar in my home city. I had a lot of fun that day. Are you gonna organise something similar soon? I hope so and I regret not going with you to the Museum of Polish Music. Nothing is lost though. I will go there very soon.

Is it easy to communicate with Polish people?

The answer can't be 'yes' or 'no'. The majority of young people speak English or can communicate in this language. But the elderly have limited knowledge when it comes to English. It's especially annoying in shops. Sometimes it's hard to buy the necessary things. I need to use Google Translate if I want to run errands.

Have you already learned some Polish words?

Yes, I've managed to learn the most useful ones. I can say 'Dzień dobry', 'Dobranoc' and 'Przepraszam'. I also know how to say my dormitory room number and count to 10. I hope to learn this language. It is not very easy, but I believe it is still possible.

Is there something you want to share with the people who are considering visiting Opole for the Erasmus+ Programme exchange?

I can recommend choosing Opole as the exchange destination because it's a quiet and peaceful place. I like the University - the architecture and people.

Do you like a multi-cultural environment?

Yes, I feel comfortable among people of different nations. I have many friends from Spain, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Germany, Italy and Greece. And I am going to meet my old friends from Warsaw and Gdańsk this weekend.