

Hello everyone! We have another special guest from Cambodia with us today! His name is Hengly and he studied at the University of Opole! Let's read about his experience in Poland!

Hello Hengly! Great to have you here with us today! Can I ask you to introduce yourself to our readers, please?

Hello everyone! Thank you for having me here! I am Hengly Tang, I'm 22 years old and I'm from Cambodia. I have finished my Bachelor Degree in Economics at the Paññāsāstra University in Cambodia. Besides studying, I like to do social work related to promoting education, environment and culture, and I also like swimming and camping.

That sounds really exciting! Thank you for sharing it with us! Could you tell me the reason why you decided to fly from Cambodia all the way to Poland to study and what was your first feeling when you arrived here?

I learnt about Poland during our classes about the World War II in the 7th grade. This country became one of my dream places to visit, but I didn't expect that I could get the great opportunity to study there. As soon as I arrived to Opole I noticed it is a bit silent and just strange, but the reason was that I came here on Sunday when most of the supermarkets were closed (only Auchan was open). Before I have heard from seniors, it is a small city and very beautiful during summer. I was excited about the food, especially vegetables which are much cheaper here comparing to my country.

What do you like the most about this place?

Park is what I like the most as I could visit the river surrounded by colorful trees. It is more beautiful in summer. Quchnia is one of the best places for me, I still miss the taste of the food in this restaurant!

I agree! It is definitely a great place to have a walk! Tell me please what surprised you the most when you came here?

The thing that surprised me the most was seeing a lot of people smoking on the streets. I wish they stopped smoking.

That would be definitely good for everyone! Why in your opinion it's a good idea to study in a different country?

I think it is a good idea to study in a different country because it is the only thing that

can help to expand my knowledge and see how big and modern the world is. The only thing I was missing was the traditional food from Cambodia.

Let's focus for a bit on Opole itself. What do you recommend to do in Opole? How can you spend your free time there?

I usually went to the park to ride a bicycle and to spend time with my Turkish and Nigerian friends. After classes, I usually went to the library called Biblioteka Obcojęzyczna in Opole. It is the best place to meet new people. I can definitely recommend this library to all of the foreign students. It is the best place to study and learn other languages.

What are your favourite places in Opole and close to Opole?

I have been to many places in Poland such as Warsaw, Kraków, Wrocław, Katowice, Gdańsk and Zakopane. These places have beautiful castles, nice beaches and the mountains in the south covered by the snow. I hope I will visit them again in the next couple of years.

How about the transport in Poland? Is it hard to travel around?

I don't think it is hard to find transport because I use Koleo or Jakdojadę to find bus stops and Portal Pasażera app to buy train tickets. It is very easy to use and really cheap.

Can you tell us what are Polish people like?

Some of my foreign friends said Polish people are not friendly. As from my experience I can see they are very friendly but they just don't like smiling. I feel like Polish people live their life in happiness. Every evening and on weekends they spend time with family eating rosół and having fun with pets. They also go to the park to have a picnic with friends and family.

Is it difficult to communicate with them in English?

Yes of course, I could use English to communicate with local people. I have just learnt how to say 'dziękuję' and 'dzień dobry'. I have some funny stories that remind this great time in Poland.

In your opinion is Poland an expensive country?

I don't think Poland is an expensive country if I compare to France, Germany

and the Netherlands. The prices are similar to the ones we have in Cambodia. Sometimes it is even cheaper than in my country.

Are there any disadvantages of choosing Opole as your studies destination?

Even though, Opole is a small city, I really love it. It has a park, museum, castle and many more places to visit. For the study purpose, there is no barrier for me. I just want to explore and learn from the culture shock and the environment that surrounds me.

What do you think about the classes at the University of Opole?

I love the environment in classes. We had a lot of discussions as well as role-playing classes. Professors try to engage all students to join these activities and give us scores if we did a great job. It is definitely not hard to pass exams and get good grades.

Last but not least, tell us about your favourite Polish food!

My favourite Polish food that I would love to recommend are rosół, pierogi and Polish pancakes. I usually ate it when I lived in Poland. I would like to recommend a restaurant called Quchnia where you can find delicious dishes with reasonable prices. I used to go there when I was too lazy to cook food.

I agree! Pierogi are definitely a must-eat in Poland! Coming to the end of our interview I would like to ask whether you recommend to other students to study in Opole?

Yes, of course, I recommend that! I have actually just finished my presentation regarding my experience in Poland. It was really exciting as I have been telling my story to approximately 100 people online and in person as well! I talked about my experience and gave some tips to my fellow students and juniors. I was trying to recommend and encourage junior students to take this opportunity. Opole is definitely still in my heart. I would also like to pay my highest appreciation to Erasmus+ coordinators for always supporting and taking care of me especially when I was in Thailand applying for Visa. I am not the only one who is really grateful for their help, but also other students from Cambodia. Thank you so much to Mrs Halina, Mrs Kasia and Mr Mahammad Kohistani.

Thank you so much Hengly for sharing your experience with us! I really appreciate it and I wish you all the best :)

Thank you very much! It was a pleasure!