

“THE BEST DECISION OF MY LIFE”

Delina Cici (23) from Albania came to the Erfurt School of Public Policy for a two-year Master's course as a Go West scholar.

“If you want a good education, go to Erfurt.” (Martin Luther). Luther's famous quote first introduced me to Erfurt. At that time I knew nothing about this wonderful city positioned in the heart of Germany in which I would be spending two years of my studies. So I did some research and discovered that although Erfurt may not be a particularly magnificent city, it does have a rich cultural and historic background. I could hardly wait to discover this town.

Studying in Germany was a dream that grew with me. However, when the dream became reality in 2007, I was scared – scared about what life in Germany would be like, whether or not I would get used to it. Luckily, these doubts soon disappeared. The Erfurt School of Public Policy (ESPP) left me no time to worry. The first year came and went very quickly. I learnt a lot. I improved my language skills in courses like “Inter-cultural communication”, “German grammar”, “Business German” and “Building vocabulary”. I resolved to speak German fluently before the end of the second year. Furthermore, I developed my analytical abilities and concentrated on International Affairs und Strategic Management.



I particularly enjoyed the way the “Master of Public Policy” degree programme combined theoretical knowledge transfer with practical experiences. The ESPP provided me with the tools and standards I needed during my internship. In the summer of 2008, I spent two months at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Tirana, the capital of my home country Albania. My work there was mainly focussed on the area of corporate social responsibility and developing public private partnerships. I prepared two leaflets and carried out a lot of research. I most profited from direct contact with clients at business meetings. The project manager I worked with gave me several useful tips on how to act in business meetings, how to convince interested parties to invest in your project and how to arouse general interest in companies about corporate social responsibility. I now have an idea of how the market works and how international organisations function in Albania. »

In my free time I have visited a number of German cities. I was impressed by the rich culture and history of this country. It is no coincidence that the most famous philosophers come from Germany. I will never forget visiting the Wartburg Castle where Martin Luther completed his masterpiece – the translation of the New Testament. The tours of Johann Sebastian Bach's house in Eisenach and Goethe's house in Weimar were important cultural experiences for me. In my opinion, the perfect coexistence of past and present makes Germany unique.

Studying and living in Erfurt was the best decision of my life. New horizons and perspectives have opened up to me. I have met students from various nationalities and cultures and have realised that Germany, the USA, Russia, China, Turkey, Brazil, Mexico, Israel, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Chile, Ghana, Albania und Kosovo actually all speak the same language! ॥

