

Neurological disease in Croatia

Host country: Croatia

University of Zagreb

Project: Visual Evoked Response of the Cerebral Circulation-Functional Measurements

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5th year of study

Spoken languages:
Russian, English,
German

The purpose of my study was to learn the method of transcranial dopplerography and colour-intracranial dopplerography of carotid and vertebral arteries. These investigations are very helpful in revealing the affected areas of the brain after a stroke and other neurological conditions. Our investigation consisted of comparing blood flow velocity between patients of the Cerebrovascular laboratory.

I very much enjoyed the work I did in the Cerebrovascular laboratory within the Department of Neurology, University of Zagreb. The attitude of the doctors and the medical staff was very benevolent. They tried to explain everything to me, to answer any questions I may have

had, to use any opportunity to let us deal with the patients and carry out investigations independently. There was almost no language barrier with laboratory staff or other exchange students. We even had an opportunity to visit the

medical scientific conference, Neurological and Neurosurgical Departments and Stroke unit of the hospital.

I believe this project will be very helpful in my future medical carrier. I received good insight into the Croatian medical system that helped

me compare neurological services in Croatia with that of my native country. I applied my knowledge in neurology and networked with physicians and colleagues from around the globe.



City and Country

My exchange was in Zagreb, the capital of Croatia. Zagreb is a beautiful city in a lovely country, where you can enjoy relaxing moments including quiet walks through the old narrow streets in Gornij Grad, climbing the mountain Medvednica, eating national cakes in Samobor, enjoying brilliant parties on Jarun Lake, and resting on the great beach Zlatni Rat. We also had trips to Zadar and Split - cities on the coast of Adriatic Sea, which were really unforgettable. Besides Russian students, there were exchange students from Brazil, Spain, Mexico, Italy, Estonia, Lithuania, Ukraine, France, Slovenia, Slovakia and other countries from all over the world. We had almost no language barrier and became good friends.

Preparations, travel and arrival

Fortunately, I didn't require a visa to travel to Croatia. I had a direct flight from Moscow to Zagreb, where we (students from Russia) were picked up by our contact persons and immediately taken to our dormitory. I am very grateful to our contact persons for all their help with showing us around the city, explaining to us the rules of our exchange program, solving all our difficulties and for always being there to support us. We became good friends as a result of their incredible hospitality towards us.

Stay

Our dormitory was located near the centre of Zagreb, so it usually took about half-an-hour by tram to get to the hospital, which was in the center of the city. I shared a double-room with another exchange student from Russia. We had a common bathroom for two rooms and other conveniences, but unfortunately we ran out of warm running water on the last week of our exchange, so we had to go to a nearby hostel. In the same building, we had a students' canteen, so it was not a problem to have a meal.

We were not paid while being on the exchange program, but we had special cards belonging to Croatian students, which allowed us to have quite large discounts on food in the canteen. But when the canteen was closed for the holidays, we had

to eat out and sometimes it took us time to find cheap food. However, we soon got used to it and eventually it was not a problem for us.

My contact person and I corresponded via email prior to my arrival in Zagreb.

After arriving, our contact persons used to take us on trips through the city and to different parties. They were always in touch with

us. We also had common parties with all the exchange students, which helped us to get to know each other. We visited several popular places in Croatia. One of the most memorable trips was the one to Split and to the most famous beach in Croatia - Zlatni Rat. We took a great amount of photos. Even now that all the students have returned home we are in touch by Internet so we can still communicate with the new friends from this exchange program. We are also planning to all meet up once again in the future.



Croatia

Location	Southeastern Europe, bordering the Adriatic Sea, between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia
Area	total: 56,542 sq km land: 56,414 sq km water: 128 sq km
Area-comparative	slightly smaller than West Virginia
Land boundaries	total: 1,982 km border countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina 932 km, Hungary 329 km, Serbia 241 km, Montenegro 25 km, Slovenia 455 km
Climate	Mediterranean and continental; continental climate predominant with hot summers and cold winters; mild winters, dry summers along coast
Population	4,491,543 (July 2008 est.)
Religions	Roman Catholic 87.8%, Orthodox 4.4%, other Christian 0.4%, Muslim 1.3%, other and unspecified 0.9%, none 5.2% (2001 census)
Languages	Croatian 96.1%, Serbian 1%, other and undesignated 2.9% (including Italian, Hungarian, Czech, Slovak, and German) (2001 census)
Capital	name: Zagreb

