

A New Way to Study Abroad: A Hybrid Experience with the Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme

The Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) is a short and intensive mobility programme funded by the European Union, that combines online learning with a short trip for in-person teaching. Sofia, a Master's student in Crime and Criminal Justice, chose to join the BIP "Digital technology and crime: the crucial role of the human factor in Cybercrime," after finding out about it in her program's newsletter. She was interested by the uniqueness of the program's structure and topics.

“I found the specific topic of the BIP, cybercrime, extremely interesting and also quite useful to draft my thesis, which revolved on a related topic. [This program included] lectures held by several professors from the Leiden University, the Porto University and the University of Elche, culminating in a final group presentation and written assignment on a designated topic.”

The BIP gave Sofia the opportunity to engage in a topic not extensively covered in her Master's. She was able to delve deeper into an area of interest, gaining knowledge that she later applied to the theoretical framework of her thesis.

Beyond academics, Sofia also enjoyed the social and cultural parts of the program. The in-person element of the course took place over 5 days in Porto, Portugal. The program included guided tours, cultural visits, and a welcome dinner. This gave Sofia the chance to practice her Portuguese language skills, and to build lasting connections with the other students and professors.

“The best aspect of my participation on BIP was definitely the social one: all of the social activities were organized with great care to detail, which made them very enjoyable for all us participants. Moreover, I created bonds for life with other students, whom I will hold dear to my heart for years to come.”

One of the key advantages of the BIP was its financial accessibility, with project funding covering nearly all travel expenses. The hybrid nature also enables students to try an international experience and to forge global connections without having to leave the Netherlands for too long.