

“I fell in love with France...”

Marta Famulska, a Polish student at the University of Opole, spent a semester at the uB in 2013-2014 as part of an exchange programme. One year later, she looks back on her time in Dijon.



“Knowing English is a must, but knowing French is a big asset”, a professor who I liked a lot once told me. This sentence left a big impression on me and I decided to learn French.

Martha decided to do an exchange because she wanted to perfect her level of French but also discover French culture and meet people from all over the globe.

Martha, a philology and international relations student in Poland, took law classes at the University of Burgundy. “Being in France allowed me to improve my linguistic skills and, so as not to neglect my second subject which is international relations, I was able to find some interesting classes in law here at the uB thanks to the bilateral agreement between our two universities.

My two favorite courses were *Administrative institutions* and *French as a foreign language* where the professor always discussed news topics which were very interesting from a cultural point of view.

“The classes were difficult sometimes as French is not my native language but my fear soon disappeared. When I had difficulties, I asked for notes from my French classmates. And in everyday life you can sort out any administrative worries in English. I think I especially progressed in French in terms of my accent. And, above all, I am no longer scared to speak French and I have a lot more confidence in myself.”

For Marta it was difficult to leave her close friends and family and she was scared she would not integrate in France. Thanks to new friends and a number of activities organised by the University, her stay in Dijon turned into a great adventure for her, which helped her to surpass her fears.

Life in France

“When I arrived in Dijon it was still summer. There was a lot of sunshine, it was very hot. It was like I was on holiday. Unfortunately this did not last a long time and I had to kit myself out with an umbrella and rubber boots. But when you are surrounded by friends and exciting plans, you forget the rain!”

During her stay Marta was able to discover Dijon and find her favorite places: Colombiere Park and Lake Kir. She also visited other cities in France: Beaune, Mâcon, Paris, Lyon and Saint-Malo.

“Dijon is a beautiful city which is very picturesque. I loved walking down the small streets and having coffee in charming places. French culture is very rich, with an exceptional and impressive heritage. I was surprised by the long break at lunchtime because this system does not exist in Poland.”

Despite her food allergies and the fact she does not eat meat, Marta found small culinary pleasures: macarons, crepes, grilled chestnuts, hot croissants... “And especially Burgundy wine and kir!” Marta adds with a smile.

In her opinion the French are quite shut-off and it is not always easy to communicate with them. “But at the same time you are friendly and ready to help!” she says.

At the end of the day...

“I am very happy with my stay, it was a great experience which enriched my life. I hope I will have another chance to come to France. You should not let the fear of the unknown stop you from leaving and having one of the biggest adventures of your life – those who risk nothing gain nothing. I fell in love with France! Thank you, my beautiful Dijon, for letting me discover French culture and language, and simply for letting me discover France!”

One year later

“I am currently in my second year of a Master’s in French literature. I have just come back from Montpellier where I was studying. Now I am preparing my Master’s dissertation in Poland. My stay in Dijon helped my studies in Montpellier without a doubt. I always look back on Dijon with a lot of nostalgia. I am very grateful for having had the chance to study at the University of Burgundy.”



Dijon - Place de la République



Dijon - parc de la Colombière