

Study in Italy, it's easy!



Study in Italy for free it is simple, says Lyuba Dyshlyuk, the 5th year student of the Faculty of Journalism of St. Petersburg State University. The girl knows it by experience. This fall she spent in Rome, where she studied at the State University of Roma 3. As in Italy the Faculty of Journalism does not exist, Lyuba had to choose another subject to study and she chose just what she likes, the cinema. A half months of intensive lectures and seminars, three books read on the Italian, and all this has finished with an exam. Lyuba passed it very well: 26 points out of 30. She told us about her adventures, learning experiences and impressions when she already returned to St. Petersburg:

- How did you find yourself in Rome?

- I have dreamed for long of going to study in Italy and I knew that St. Petersburg University signed agreements with several Italian universities. I just opened our university website, chose the University (Roma 3, because i really like Rome), then on Roma 3 website I selected a faculty (philology and philosophy) and the courses which I liked more. Then I send an email to the Italian curator. He answered me positively and then I dealt with our international department of St. Petersburg State University in order to sort out all the documentation needed.

- The study did cost you something?

- Yes, this is a big defect. Free was just the learning, but the transport and the accommodation I had to pay myself. That's why this summer I worked as an interpreter of English and Swedish in Finland. But it was worth the effort.

- And how much did you spend on the transport and the accommodation?

- The plane ticket from St. Petersburg to Rome I bought almost at the last moment, because I did not know when the visa would be ready. Therefore, the return ticket cost me quite expensive - 230 euros. With the accommodation I was lucky: I did not have to search for it. The organization Home for students found me, perhaps through the Italian university, and offered me a room in a six-room apartment in the south of Rome near the subway station Marconi. It cost 350 Euros.

- Was it difficult in the beginning?

- Yes, at first I did not even speak, I just asked about some necessary things and I drew much attention to the correctness of the speech. But two weeks later I was quite accustomed. Since I lived in the apartment with 5 Italians, I had enough practice of the Italian language. I watched TV and I noticed an interesting thing: the Italian news focuses only on events in Italy, while the international news last just one minute in the end, so in Rome I did not know anything about what was happening in the world, especially in Russia.

I also liked to watch the Italian version of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" Once I was very amused when the Italian player, getting already close to the million, did not know how to answer the question:

“The Middle name in Russia is the name of whom? Saint, mother, father,..”. He asked for help the audience. Do you know what did they answer? The name of a saint! Amusing!

- The studying in Italy is different from the studying in Russia?

- No, almost there is no difference. The only thing is that in Roma 3 all the audiences are very large, so the speakers talk into a microphone. Also on the lectures it is very quiet and the lecture room is full even before the beginning, so it is necessary to come a half an hour earlier to take a seat at the front. In Italy students can get up and leave during a lecture, it is considered normal. But I had never heard a phone ringing in class.

- Did you like the chosen course?

- I went to different lectures, not only to those about the cinema. Every day I used to leave in the morning at 8-9 and return after two, then the whole day I used to spend walking around Rome. In Roma 3 it was interesting to listen about Russian literature, they talked mostly about Gogol. In cinema class we watched all kinds of old movies. I made good friends with Professor Enrico, we used to go together to the cinema. Another professor who studied before the Slavic languages and knows Polish, Serbian, Czech, writes me emails sometimes.

- How was the exam?

- Italian exams are not similar to Russian ones. There are three examiners at the exam, each one in turn asks you about the books you have read, but unlike in Russia, there are no long lists of recommended literature, but small lists of 3-6 books obligatory to read. Each examiner evaluates you for a maximum of 10 points, then all points are summed up and the maximum total score is 30. I got 26 points. That is 9, 9, 8. The 8 point I was given by an examiner, who talked with me about the Russian cinema, as soon as got to know that I was Russian. After a long conversation about Sokurov and Eisenstein, he gave me 8, I still do not understand why.

- What else did you do in Rome?

- Four times I went to the football matches with the Roma team. I'm sick for the Roma, and probably only I in St. Petersburg know the Roma anthem by heart. To my joy, Totti scored two goals.

- Did you go from Rome to other cities?

- Yes, I was in Venice, Florence, Bologna, Naples. To the north I traveled alone by train. By the way, this train connects Syracuse and Venice, so there were a lot of passengers from the south of Italy, especially Sicilians. They are very sociable, but their language is incomprehensible.

In Venice a trouble happened with me: I was robbed. I lived in Venice four days in the hostel and once I returned from a walk, in the hostel I met my Australian neighbor who said: “We are robbed!” Well, I hadn't left anything important, I had taken all valuable things with me. It is a pity, though, that 50 Euros had remained in the pocket of my stolen jeans. My Japanese neighbors lost an expensive photo techniques, but it was insured.

Afterwards we found out that the keys of the hostel rooms were universal and fitted any door. We wrote a report of the theft. The owner of the hostel promised to compensate the theft, but in the end we got back only the cost for the night - 25 Euros. All thieves were called by their embassies. But the Russian embassy for some reason forgot about me.

- Did your idea of the Italians changed after the trip?

- Yes, I began to better understand them. They are noisy and open, easy to start a conversation with strangers. For example, an Italian stands on the crossing and waits for the green, but the traffic lights do not light up, he would usually say something, comment, swore. Or if there is a rain and you do not have an umbrella, be sure someone will offer you his or hers one. Though I see a lack of gentlemen in Italy, on the other hand, Italian men cook really good. Young people under thirty are very windy, and, in my opinion, in romantic relationships they have the dominion of the physical side, not spiritual. Also many of them are not very developed, they do not appreciate their culture, that is probably because they are already satiated with it: at every corner in Italy you find a work of art. But, in general, I have more positive impressions about Italians than negative ones.

- What do you think about Italian humor as the player of KVN?

- It's predictable and primitive. They do not understand Russian phenomenon of KVN. I tried to explain to my friends, what it is by distributing to everyone a short fanny cue, then they spoke one by one and it turned out an interesting "greeting", but anyway KVN remains for them unclear.

- When you returned to St. Petersburg, did you have again to adapt?

- It was a strong contrast! Especially because the next day I went to the Faculty. You know, the metro Vasileostrovskaya, the crowd, gloomy faces, unsmiling faces. By the way I showed my skills in Italian cookery to my friends: I invited them all to a party with pasta and the pesto sauce. Of course it was not similar to what we did in Italy, but my friends liked it.

KOS

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