



Erasmus+



Participant: Dainis Albiņš

Sending Institution: Luther Academy

Host Country: Croatia

Host Institution: Evangelical Theological Seminary, Cvjetkova Street 32, Osijek, Croatia

Field of Study: Old Testament

Mobility Duration: 06/10/2025-10/10/2025.

Motivation to participate in Erasmus study mobility

My main motivation to participate in the Erasmus+ study mobility was to deepen my academic understanding and explore the Bible at a more advanced level, while gaining intercultural experience that could broaden my theological and personal perspectives. The Old Testament has always fascinated me with its profound structure, historical depth, and theological richness. It represents both a spiritual testimony and a historical document that continues to shape my faith, culture, and identity today. Through the Erasmus+ programme, I wanted to expand my methodological and hermeneutical approaches to reading the biblical text, and to learn how scholars from different cultural and academic backgrounds interpret the same scripture in diverse ways. This opportunity also allowed me to grow personally, to step out of my comfort zone, and to experience learning within an international academic environment that values dialogue, respect, and open-mindedness.

Cooperation with the sending and receiving institutions

Before the start of my mobility, I received detailed and well-structured information from both my home and host institutions. The sending institution provided clear guidance about the application process, learning agreement, and administrative requirements. Meanwhile, the host university supplied detailed information about the seminar programme, lecturers, accommodation, meals, and practical advice regarding transport and sightseeing opportunities. All my questions were answered promptly and helpfully. Upon arrival, the staff at the receiving institution gave us a very warm and kind welcome. They introduced the schedule, shared helpful tips for the following days, and made sure that we felt

comfortable and supported. Every day, the organizers greeted us with a smile, asked if everything was fine, provided assistance when needed, and even shared meals together with the group. After returning to Latvia, I received a kind follow-up message with additional information about the lecturers and seminar participants, as well as a note asking whether we had safely returned home. This level of care and attention made the experience very positive and well-organized.

Academic and personal achievements

Academically, the Erasmus+ mobility provided a valuable opportunity to broaden my understanding of biblical studies. I attended several intellectually stimulating lectures and workshops that deepened my knowledge of scriptural interpretation and translation theory. I received useful insights on how to read the Bible more critically and meaningfully, recognizing the importance of language nuances, historical context, and translation differences. On a personal level, I benefited greatly from interacting with students and lecturers from different countries. We exchanged ideas, shared perspectives, and learned from one another's cultural backgrounds. I also established meaningful friendships and valuable professional contacts that I hope to maintain in the future. Living in a new environment helped me to become more independent, adaptable, and confident in intercultural communication. Overall, the experience strengthened both my academic competence and my personal maturity.

Most memorable impressions

Living in Croatia was an enriching experience filled with unique and unforgettable moments. One of the most striking impressions was hearing church bells ring every fifteen minutes - something that rarely happens in Latvia. I was fascinated by the small-town atmosphere, the numerous churches, and the deep religious and cultural traditions embedded in everyday life. The local people were very kind, welcoming, and open-hearted. The natural beauty of Croatia - from the small child and animals to charming old streets - left a lasting impression on me. I also enjoyed the delicious local cuisine and traditional hospitality. A particularly moving experience was attending an evening service in a Pentecostal congregation, which gave me a deep sense of spiritual connection and community. Songs were really warm and cheerful. These experiences reminded me how faith and culture are lived out in different yet equally meaningful ways across Europe.

Practical advice for future Erasmus+ participants

I would strongly encourage future students to take part in the Erasmus+ programme, as it offers invaluable opportunities for academic growth and personal development. My main advice is to be open-minded and proactive: communicate with students and staff from other countries, participate in discussions, and make an effort to learn about the host culture. It is also helpful to attend local churches or community events, as these provide deeper insights into the cultural and spiritual life of the country. Be well-prepared before departure - gather information about your destination, accommodation, and local customs - but once there, allow yourself to be flexible and curious. Every experience, even the unexpected ones, can contribute to your learning and growth.

Additional reflections

The Erasmus+ study mobility was truly a transformative experience for me. It not only enhanced my academic and linguistic skills but also helped me develop a stronger sense of independence, intercultural understanding, and appreciation for diversity. The opportunity to learn from international scholars and peers has motivated me to continue pursuing theological studies from a global perspective.

I am deeply grateful for the support provided by both my home and host institutions, and I highly recommend this programme to anyone seeking to expand their academic horizons and personal worldview. I am already looking forward to participating in future Erasmus+ opportunities to further improve my language proficiency, enrich my theological insight, and build lasting friendships across the world.



