

Questions made by the Italian ERASMUS+ students to the principal of the institute “Manuel de Montsuar” of Lleida.

Igor: Good morning mr. principal, we have some questions for you; the first question is: who is the principal? How long has he been working in this school and how many Erasmus projects is this school participating in? And in which countries?

Principal: I have been here as a teacher for twenty-six years and as a principal for the last nineteen years, so I am a principal at all, about the changes and Erasmus+ activities, we are working in three different types of Erasmus+ activities, and one of them is exchange: we have an exchange of students, short term activity, with Netherlands, for the students of about thirteen years old, with Latvia and Germany, for students of about fourteen years old and with Germany, Italy and France for students of about fifteen/sixteen years old and with Estonia and Finland for student of about sixteen/seventeen years old, so, totally, we do seven exchanges with different countries, moreover, we have long term activity that is between four and eight weeks abroad with three students in Finland, three students in Netherlands and two students in France, and the last activity is only for the teachers and it is job showering: group of teachers can go to those countries, remain there for a week, looking at the lessons, at the teachers and at the schools. What else?

Manuel: Can you tell us something about rules and regulations in this school?

Principal: Rules, okay, so maybe, two or three issues that are totally different from Italy, for instance, I think that you have to attend lessons on Saturday morning, true?

Italian students: yes.

Principal: It's incredible but for us Saturday and Sunday morning are always family time so family do some activities with their children or, I don't know, maybe you have to attend some sport activities and so; another one, that I don't know if is a difference, we have to have all the openings of the school closed with fences or gates, because it's not compulsory that the students can go out during the lessons time. Moreover, this year there's a new rule about the use of the mobile phone, which is totally forbidden, it is allowed to use the mobile phone only in specific areas and only for the students of “Bachillerato”. What else?

Samira: How long are the Easter and summer holidays? What other holidays do you have?

Principal: Easter holidays last one week; Christmas's holidays last more or less two weeks or two weeks and a half; summer holidays are from twentieth of June to eighth or ninth of september, so, more or less two months and two weeks.

Igor: And how many subjects do you have in total in the school?

Principal: Each year is between eight and ten subjects, more or less, so: maths, catalan language, spanish language, foreign languages which could be english or german, geography and history, which are the same subject, sciences, technology, P.E., so more or less between eight and ten, it depends on the year.

Igor: Thank you so much; I will ask you about secondary school: how many classes are there and what's the age of the students of these classes?

Principal: Okay, so, here we have secondary school and upper secondary school. Secondary school includes four grades, first, second, third and fourth of eso, that is compulsory.

Igor: And what age do the students who attend these grades have?

Principal: In the first of eso the students have twelve years old, in the second thirteen, in the third fourteen and in the fourth fifteen, more or less, and in bachillerato, upper secondary, post compulsory, from sixteen to seventeen years old, more or less, because some of the students finish their studies at the age of eighteen, it depends on the month in which they were born.

Igor: I would also like to ask about the final exam, how does it work and how is it called?

Principal: Yeah, in here there are two important checkpoints: there are some final exams at the end of the compulsory studies to get the certificate of graduation, after that, when you finish secondary school, you can apply either to the bachillerato, to prepare yourself to apply for university, or you can apply for vocational training studies, I don't know, if you want to be a mechanic, a carpenter and so on; when you finish your upper secondary school to go to the university you have to apply to enter the university and you have to do another really hard exam, and depending on your marks you can apply for, i don't know, maybe right now it's really popular with really high marks medicine, for instance. It's easier to apply for, I don't know, maybe economics, but it's really difficult to apply for medicine because the marks have to be really, really high.

Sebastiano: thank you so much, that's all, we have finished.

Principal: That's all? Okay, I hope you enjoy these days here in Lleida.