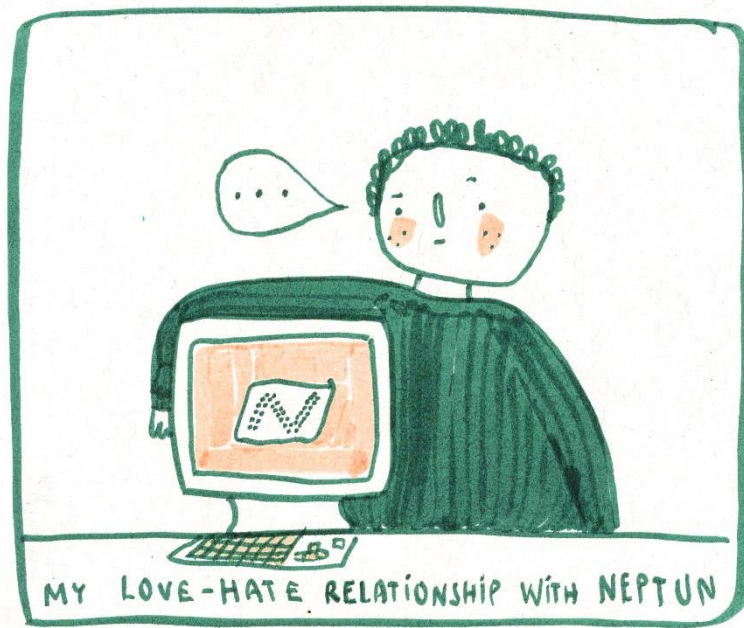


WHAT IS IT LIKE TO STUDY IN POLAND?



Have you ever felt like deadlines are invented by the devil himself? Well, polish people think so. The difference between the polish and hungarian school system is stunning, and it's all rooted in the different pace of life. Polish people are ver yaid back, and it manifests itself not only on a personal level, but on an institutional level too. Let's look into this in detail, and I hope my experiences will help you get an image about what it's like to be a student at the Eugeniusz Geppert Academy.

Do you remember those mornings when you kept refreshing your Neptun page like a maniac until you successfully took up all your subjects? The students here couldn't relate to that, but this doesn't mean they don't face challenges when it comes to organising their timetable. The academy is divided to numerous studios specialised to a field of art – and the variety is huge, for example you can find Book Design, Experimental print, Intermedia graphics, Stage design and so on – and each studio has a leading teacher and an assistant.* They do not have an online system at all, instead students take up classes by meeting the teachers of the studio personally and doing an acceptance interview as I mentioned in the previous blog entry. However this is not a thing to stress about; based on my experiences the professors are on our side and they are trying to find the most fitting classes to help us personalise our timetable. The only thing to keep in mind is that you should have your portfolio in a portable form or on a website so that you will always be able what you've got 😊 All in all I have to note that I had to improve my organisation skills to pull off the timetable documentation without a problem, things without a central administration system sometimes got a little chaotic so at least I can say now I see more positive sides to Neptun.



A big difference compared to the hungarian system is that instead of a few days, students actually have a whole month to decide which courses do they want to take up so here you can take it slow without getting into trouble with deadlines. This of course does not mean that this month is spent on nothing: I met most of the teachers and I showed my portfolio to each and single one of them which rewarded me with a lot of constructive criticism and useful guidance. There are also some shorter one-day workshops specifically for erasmus students so that we can try out techniques and styles before we decide to sign up for a specific class. Your study plan will 100% depend on you, of course it is necessary to consult with your departmental coordinator about the needed subjects, but other than that choosing from classes is like a buffet of specialities, and I had a hard time sorting out what are the classes that prioritise to take up because all of them sound so amazing. My personal strategy was to balance out graphic design subjects with something new, last time I tried puppet design and stage design, and this time I took up an experimental printmaking studio which will result in an artbook.



The teachers are very modern thinkers and this are usually openminded about the concept of their classes: They always leave room for your own plans so instead of strict tasks, most of the time I was offered the chance to come up with my own project and carry it out throughout the semester. There are some classes exclusively held for erasmus students, but I like to study with the polish students also and I already made some friends amongst them which is nice. In the dormitory of the school there are art studios which we can use anytime, and it provides a good environment to work on projects together with other students or just have some fun.



I am very satisfied with my classes this semester, I am trying new printmaking techniques exclusive to this academy, but also I design a book with a card game, create the concept and corporate identity of an environmentally friendly clothing company, design posters and learn the techniques of proper bookbinding. I have also got involved with the Wrocław Art Center and I am part of the crew who helps organising the Media Art Biennale, so I am very excited to tell you my experiences on this activity as well!

Next time I will write more about the life in poland in general, the places I visited and the events I got involved with in general. See you next time 😊

*: This is good news for Erasmus internship applicants, because they regularly accept interns participating in the program.

Some photos of the Academy:

