

Social Sciences Migration and Integration

Tbilisi, Georgia – Exchange at the Ilia State University

## **Review of my exchange Semester at Ilia State University in Tbilisi**

My personal interest for Georgia raised when looking for fewer known destinations in the world which are therefore less travelled. The preparation for going to Tbilisi was easy because the conditions are like to the ones here due to the proximity to European countries. The exchange with ibf worked incredibly good and I had always my exchange coordinator by my side helping me with organisational questions. Also, the communication with my partner University in Tbilisi worked very well and so they helped me with an obstacle regarding the course selection. When I arrived in Tbilisi, I was excited about the vibrant city with the mixture of ancient and modern architectures and spirit and the extraordinary beautiful old buildings from the Soviet times. Thanks to the connection to the Erasmus group, I extremely fast met other exchange students who I got close to, and we decided fast to search for a flat share together. The search for a flat configured itself easy too because there were existing a couple of Facebook groups where we could contact some property owners who then offered us nice flats for cheap prices compared to flats in Germany. Moneywise Georgia is a lot cheaper in everyday life things and in Tbilisi you can go by taxi for converted three or four euros a longer distance within the city. Tbilisi also has nice museums of different arts and flea markets where you can everything from clothes to household gear. The most amazing thing in Georgia for me personally was the nature in the mountains of the small and the big Caucasus. I can warmly recommend trips to Kazbegi or Mestia for hiking and looking at the nature, for me it was the most beautiful view I have seen. Besides that, you can go on adventures like bungee jumping or horseback riding in the very calm mountains of Borjomi. For the part experiences there are some famous and cool clubs in Tbilisi where you can dance the night through to humbling techno beats and in summer there will be some outdoor raves for sure! Overall, I highly recommend going to Georgia and experience a country which is in-between old and new and has interesting political and cultural background but also beautiful nature and people.