

IAESTE Internship in Ljubljana, Slovenia, at Institut Jožef Stefan

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Living in Ljubljana and Slovenia

For accommodation, I rented a room in a flat full of Erasmus students. This made for some fun times together with my roommates, who were from various countries around Europe. I can recommend the “Open Kitchen”, which happens every Friday near the city centre, with various delicious foods cooked on-site. As I was in Ljubljana also in December, I saw the beautiful Christmas lights of Ljubljana and enjoyed the Christmas market.

While being here, I also visited some other places: I spent one night at Lake Bled, one of the most beautiful places in Slovenija and the one usually printed on postcards. I visited Maribor, Ljubljana’s rival city in Slovenia, where I experienced a wine tasting with delicious Slovenian wine. On one occasion, I also visited the beautiful Slovenian countryside, somewhere in nowhere in between mountains.

By the end of my stay, I liked Ljubljana so much that I (almost) got used to the unpunctual buses. Unfortunately, however, I didn’t make it past “S kartico, prosim” while learning Slovenian.

I recommend going abroad to everyone. It presents you with a unique set of challenges and forces you to adapt to a new and unfamiliar setting. It pushes you beyond your comfort zone, you experience situations and meet people you never would in your home country.

Working at Institut Jožef Stefan

For my 4 month internship, I primarily worked on software development. The project I mainly worked on was *HomeDOctor*, a virtual personal physician designed to give automated, real-time medical advice to Slovenian citizens. The project became quite successful, it even got an article in the daily Slovenian newspaper Delo.

I got to work on pretty much all parts of the system: Redesign the frontend, optimize the communication with the backend, improve the data available to the backend, and make some tweaks to the infrastructure level. I was also involved in the discussions on a more high or strategic level regarding where to shift focus. While doing this, I got in touch with several new technologies, for which I was given ample time to familiarize myself with.

In case of questions or problems, I could always ask and we’d discuss the issue or explore possible approaches together.