



Vianden Castle

My Fulbright ETA Experience

Luxembourg 2024-2025

Kristal Angeles

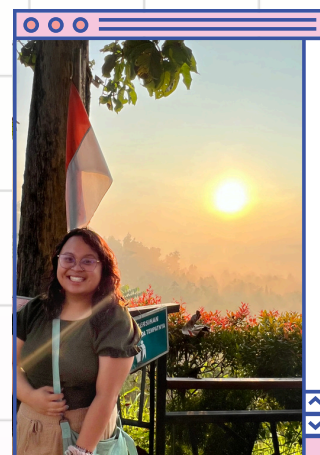


My Inspiration for Applying

In 2022, I earned a degree in Elementary Education with an English as a Second Language Endorsement from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, IL. Shortly after graduation, I joined fellow NIU students on a month long teaching experience in Indonesia. There, I co-taught a summer camp to a group of secondary students. This experience is what sparked my pursuit of global citizenship.

My first salaried job brought me back to my hometown of Round Lake, Illinois where I taught 5th grade ESL students. I learned a lot in my 2 years, but I always longed for the same mental stimulation teaching abroad gave me. I reached out to my professor who led the Indonesia trip, Dr. James Cohen, about ways to achieve employment abroad. He recommended many programs, one of which was Fulbright.

After deciding that I would apply, I then needed to narrow down which country to submit my application to. I asked myself, "What do I want to get out of this program?". To which I prioritized: obtaining more strategies to teaching students who are language learning, and practicing my French. With those 2 asks, Luxembourg was the right choice.



Pictures from Indonesia, June 2022

With a complex school system that leaves students multilingual, and an official language of French, I excitedly submitted my application to the small country. I had hopes of improving my teaching pedagogy, language skills, and continuing my pursuit of global citizenship.



Photo from teaching in IL



My Life in Luxembourg

Community Involvement

For such a small country, Luxembourg offered a lot of opportunity for enrichment. Whilst here, I tried my best to engage in different events, professional development, and learning opportunities.

I took language classes through the University of Luxembourg. My first semester, I enrolled in a French A2 class, and the following semester I enrolled in both French (B1) and German (A1). These classes helped me understand the language of my students more. I was able to identify where common mistakes of my students were being made and how to better approach teaching English to students who had these as their native tongue. I also learned about the CEFR system.

Additionally, I both hosted and attended different professional development opportunities within the schools. Since education is my profession, I wanted to make sure that I involved myself in the schools. I hosted Canva workshops and an English language conversation club for students to practice during their lunch block. I also helped with different after school clubs including the Wisconsin Exchange Club. Notable moments were connecting students with the mayor of their host city in Wisconsin, Ryan Sorensen of Sheboygan, and facilitating a letter exchange where students wrote letters to a partner school in Illinois to teach each other about daily life from the perspective of someone their age in a different country.

I made an effort to attend social and cultural events around Luxembourg. I followed social media pages to stay up to date, and I loved how appreciative Luxembourg is of tradition. Some of my favorite events that I attended are National Day weekend, and the Buergbrennen Festival. I also attended the events hosted by ESN Luxembourg. Here I was able to make friends from all over Europe while also learning more about Luxembourg. I highly recommend getting involved with these events.

Daily Routine

I worked 4 days a week, Monday-Thursday, in 3 different schools. One school in Luxembourg City, and 2 in the very north of the country in Clervaux. The commute was really long (2.5 hours to get to Clervaux), but was easy to get to with the free and accessible transportation. I worked with primary and secondary students in various different English courses. I helped with grammar, literature, and cultural lessons. After school, I may have helped with after school clubs, or I may have gone home to take one of my language class at the University. I typically tried to do something with my time after school when the commute allowed.

MONDAY
Luxembourg City

S2L2- English Course
S1L3- English Course

Lunchtime
Conversation Club

TUESDAY
Luxembourg City

S1L1- English Course
S2L3- English Course
S1L1- English Course

WEDNESDAY
Clervaux
(Primary School)

All day with P3

THURSDAY
Clervaux (Secondary School)

6G2- English Course
S3 L2- English Course
Lunchtime Conversation Club
S1 L2- English Course
S1 L2- English's Course



REFLECTIONS

Was Luxembourg What I Expected It To Be?

As a whole I can say that Luxembourg did meet my expectations, but provided many surprises along the way. For one, I expected Luxembourg to be diverse in population and rich in history, but I was shocked to see just how diverse the nation was. 47% of Luxembourg's population are expats, which means I met people from all walks of life. I was able to engage in conversations with many different perspectives, and the speed in which I learned of my position globally was quick. The adjustment to living I luckily found to be relatively simple, but there were times where the new customs really had me feeling vulnerable. There was an adjustment period, but I quickly found a routine and home in Luxembourg.

Through the perspective of an educator, it was interesting to see how Luxembourg runs their school system. It was a huge surprise seeing how many school structures Luxembourg has. It took a while to fully grasp the concept, but once I got a general understanding it was insightful to be able to discuss with fellow educators about the systems, the successes, areas of improvements, and how it compares to the United States. It is not at all what I expected to be, but it shaped my views and opinions on my educational philosophy. I also was able to take away different language teaching and classroom management strategies from the local professionals, and in return offer a new perspective and resources from what I learned from my experiences in the United States. My colleagues and I had a great dynamic where we were able to grow from each other, and I was particularly happy to learn about the logistics of a new school system on the primary and secondary level and of the opportunities granted to me.

My Post Fulbright Plans

I am fortunate to be able to renew my Fulbright Grant for the next year. My experience discovering the Luxembourgish school systems and comparing them to those I've previously explored has encouraged me to pursue a higher education within comparative school systems. I hope to take on administrative roles within the field of education, whether through consulting or curriculum development, or continuing my role as an educator in other international systems to gain further experience.

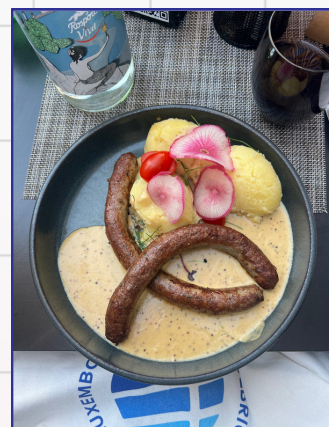
Common Misconceptions

A common misconception that I hear is that because Luxembourg is a small country that there's not much to explore. I think that because the country is small and the transportation is accessible, there is always something to do within reach. There are social media pages dedicated to letting you know what's going on in Luxembourg, and many of the popular attractions have discounts for students. Additionally, Luxembourg has many unique cultural events such as the Schueberfouer fun fair in September, and the welcoming of Spring, Buergebrennen Festival. Though the night life may not be as active as other places, your social life will still be active here in Luxembourg.



September

- Orientation in Brussels
- Pope Francis' Visit to Luxembourg!
- Schueberfouer
- First Day of School
- Erasmus Student Network Events
- US College Night
- Trying Luxembourgish food



October

- Halloween in Clervaux Castle & School
- Vianden Nut Festival
- Oktoberfest
- Meeting Patrick
- Hanging out with Fulbrighters
- Voting Abroad



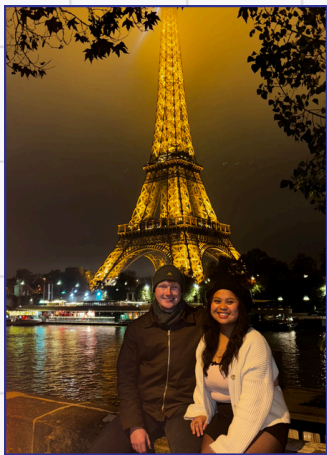
Memorable Experiences

September 2024– June 2025

Christmas Markets

November

- Prague with ESN Luxembourg Luxembourg!
- Thanksgiving at the Embassy & schools
- Friendsgiving
- Election Day
- Paris



December

- Christmas Markets!
- Winter Market Stand
- My sister visiting!
- Reconnecting with Indonesian students
- Christmas Parties
- Battle of the Bulge Memorial Event
- First Concert
- Free travel days

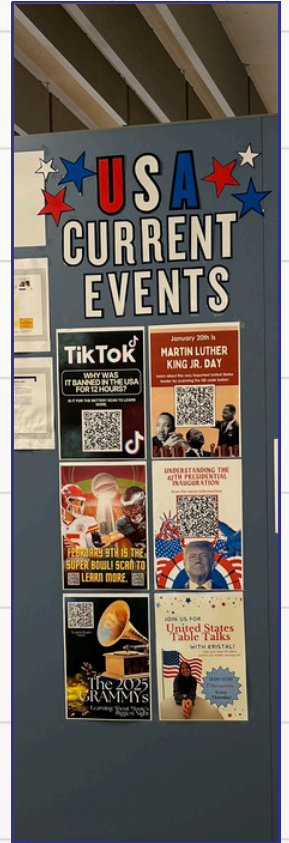


Memorable Experiences

September 2024 - June 2025

January

- Happy New Year!
- Patrick Moving away
- Mid Year in Brussels
- Start of training for my half marathon.



February

- Saying Goodbye to my Erasmus friends
- EU Nato reception
- Diekirch Carnival Parade
- Visiting Scotland!



Memorable Experiences

September 2024 - June 2025

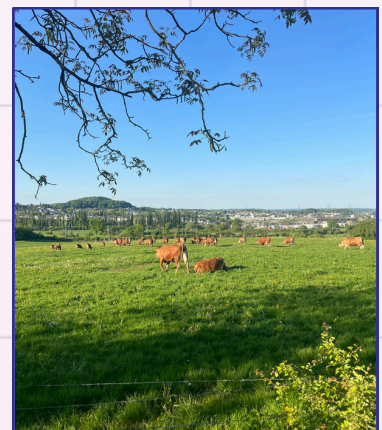
March

- Call with the Mayor of Sheboygan, Ryan Sorenson
- Buergbrennen Festival
- Dublin



April

- ETA to Educator Seminar
- Visit to Schengen
- Amsterdam with ESN Luxembourg
- Lots of runs!
- Holiday in Brussels and Scotland
- Éimaischen

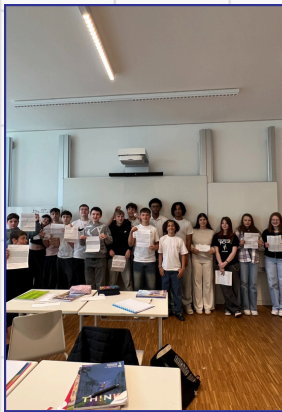


Memorable Experiences

September 2024 - June 2025

May

- US Letter Exchange
- Europe Day!
- ING Half Marathon!
- Lumineers Concert
- Friend Visiting
- Bock Casemates
- Food Truck Festival
- Vianden



June

- Hiking the Esch-sur-Sûre
- National Day Weekend
- End of Grant celebrations at school
- Canva Professional Development
- Philharmonic Concert

