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I was an exchange student in HSE Moscow for almost 6 six months. Before I decided to go to Moscow, I had many questions in my mind about what kind of exchange experience I would have. There weren't many people I could ask the questions in my mind since there was no one who went to Russia from our university as part of the exchange program before. If we take the pandemic into account, I had no idea what to expect in Moscow. Still, I took the risk and went and I can say that it was the best period of my life. Turkey was one of the rare countries where the borders with Russia were open and I had the chance to go to Moscow. Everything was absolutely wonderful about Moscow. The students can expect to see a cosmopolitan city yet steeped in old-world charm. Moscow is home to active social scenes. It has amazing architecture, diverse museums and galleries, fascinating restaurants, and vibrant nightlife. In my opinion, Moscow can offer almost everything to students from different walks of life. The good thing is that the HSE campus is located in the city center and you will have quite fast access to almost everything. Moscow metro is nearly 400 km long with 15 lines and therefore It is possible to go anywhere in Moscow very easily and quickly. Further, Moscow is really affordable in comparison with other international study destinations like Europe.

At first glance, Russian people can be seen as cold and unfriendly, but in general Russian people have very kind hearts and are very emphatic to foreigners. They are really ready to help you if you are in need. I recommend you to students who will come to Moscow to learn basic stuff in the Russian language. Although the Russian language may seem difficult, it is really not as difficult as it is exaggerated to learn, and learning the language will help you a lot in your daily life.

HSE is among Russia's top universities in multiple fields of study, especially in economics and finance. The study standards of economics were really good at HSE. The teachers were really good in their field and they were very friendly and cooperative. The exchange office was helpful and they have taken care of every need I had through the hardest times of my exchange experience.

In general, this experience has taught me to be an open-minded, independent, tolerant person. I had precious memories and made friends for life over there. I understood that we were brought up with a truly western-orientated mindset, now I can say that I can look at the issues from different perspective.

I recommend Moscow to anyone who wants to have a different experience. By the way, don't forget to bring thick clothes before you come here :)

