

Teaching and Allied Experience

Prishtina International Summer University

(PISU 2022)

University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina”

Prishtina, Kosovo



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Teaching Experience at PISU 2022

UP schedules summer courses for both national and international students under its PISU program. For its 21st edition of PISU (2022), they scheduled 3-hour classes for 10 working days to cover the 30 credit hours of the courses.

UP winds up their summer semester in two weeks before their university-wide vacations of 30-35 working days (6-7 work weeks). As the majority of the international professors selected for the program were from Europe, I learned that it is a common practice in Europe and the Balkans. UP requires all full-time professors to complete at least two teacher training/teaching pedagogy courses out of multiple courses available to them before they start teaching. Rector UP Prof Dr Naser Sahiti arranged a meeting with all international professors and their local co-professors for PISU 2022 to make sure everyone felt welcomed, all their needs were being met for the program and their stay in Kosovo, and to gather feedback for improvements in the program for future editions.

Students showed keen interest in learning and making the most out of the time available for classes. Both teachers and students put more importance on practical work, hands-on activities inside or outside the classroom and site visits to see things happen in real as compared to the class lectures. Informal student feedback was positive. UP like many other universities of the Balkans and Europe requires professors to strictly observe timings for classes only. However, they do not expect professors to be present on campus outside the scheduled class times. Students showed great respect for professors' personal life and time outside the scheduled classes. Even after PISU, many of my students have shown interest in the field and connected over email/LinkedIn to get further guidance.

Allied Experience at PISU 2022

There were numerous activities, events and visits planned for the students and professors of PISU 2022 to get as much cultural exposure as they can in two weeks. Other than the Opening Ceremony and the Closing Ceremony, Welcome and Farewell parties were also planned. Other events and gatherings included Traditional Night where they played their traditional music and catered traditional food and International Night where everyone discussed their traditions, culture, and food and they played music from all the different countries of the international participant.

They also arranged tours of different cafés, and museums including the Ethnographic Museum, National Museum of Kosovo and Art Gallery, and a visit to their very large regional park, Gërmia Park. A day for sports activities for students and professors was also organized. They arranged a screening of the movie Hive, which was about the story of men leaving for and tragically falling casualties of the Kosovo War and the women who were left behind picking up the burden, with a meet-and-greet with the director and producer afterwards. A piano concert by the students of the Piano Repertoire course of PISU 2022 was also conducted in the university amphitheatre. Another

ensemble evening by a three-member electroacoustic band Adhurim Grezda & 'Don't listen to your neighbours' was a good exposure to their traditional Albanian music recomposed in a modern style.

Over the weekend, PISU arranged city tours to two of their beautiful cities of Prizren and Pejë which are rich in cultural and historical inheritance like Sinan Pasha Mosque (1615) and Prizren Fortress (first build in the 6th century). We also visited Radavci Cave in the Rugova Gorge and White Drin Waterfall in Radavc. Ulpianë, an archaeological site of ruins of an ancient Roman City located in modern-day Lipjan, was another destination we visited.

Although it was a 2-week program, all the excursions, places to explore, cities and destinations to visit and cultural experiences make it feel like months of stay. Time moves so slow that you can do so much in a day and yet have time to do so much more. Overall, these were very happening two weeks with a lot of diverse experiences and learning.

To anyone who gets to avail of this opportunity in the future, I would strongly suggest they extend their trip, if possible, after the summer university program as the country has a lot more to offer. People are very respectful and helpful. They are open and accepting towards differences of opinions, cultures, and religions and respect and value personal space and privacy.

Photos from the stay and excursions during the PISU 2022 are attached to Annexure A – Photos: Teaching and Allied Experience at 21st PISU 2022.

Annexure A – Photos: Teaching and Allied Experience at 21st PISU 2022



Picture 1 PISU 2022: During the lecture with Co-Professor Dr Sevdie Alshiqi Bekteshi and a student



Picture 2 PISU 2022: With Prof. Stefan Möller, Prof. Lejla Pula and Prof. Sherein AbdelGayed after Piano Repertoire Concert



Picture 3 PISU 2022: With Professor Sherein AbdelGayed at Ulpianë



Picture 4 PISU 2022: With Prof. Pradeep Kumar, Prof. Maciej Białous, Prof. Stefan Möller and Prof. Lejla Pula at Prizren Fortress



Picture 5 PISU 2022: With Prof. Jakub Doński, Prof. Pradeep Kumar and Prof. Maciej Białous exploring the capital



Picture 6 PISU 2022: With my students at International Night



Picture 7 PISU 2022: With Prof. Sherein AbdelGayed at White Drin Waterfalls



Picture 8 PISU 2022: With Prof. Jakub Doński on Cafés Tour



Picture 9 PISU 2022: Visit to the National Museum of Kosovo and Art Gallery



Picture 10 Representing Pakistan at PISU 2022