

Report on My Trip to Rhodes, Greece, Funded by QMUL

Introduction

My trip to Rhodes, Greece, funded by Queen Mary University of London (QMUL), was an invaluable experience both academically and personally. Having the opportunity to explore a region rich in ancient history, culture and natural beauty, my expectations were high. I anticipated that the trip would provide me with insights into Greece's historical significance and offer fresh perspectives that could enhance my academic research. In this report, I will reflect on my experience, detailing the activities I participated in, the relevance to my studies, and how the Expedition fund facilitated this enriching journey.

Expectations and Preparations

Before the trip, I was eager to immerse myself in the rich cultural heritage of Rhodes. Known for its historical landmarks, including the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Medieval City of Rhodes, I anticipated that my exploration of these sites would deepen my understanding of classical and medieval history. Additionally, I hoped to experience the modern culture of Greece, which I expected to offer a fascinating contrast to the historical elements of the island.

To prepare, I researched the historical landmarks, museums, and cultural sites, ensuring I had a robust itinerary that would balance both educational visits and personal exploration. My academic focus in ancient history made Rhodes an ideal destination, with its blend of classical Greek, Roman, Byzantine and medieval influences.

Activities and Academic Contributions

During my time in Rhodes, I visited several key historical sites, each of which contributed to my academic progress in meaningful ways:

- The Medieval City of Rhodes:** As one of the best-preserved medieval towns in Europe, walking through the narrow, cobbled streets provided me with a tangible connection to the medieval period.
- The Archaeological Museum of Rhodes:** This museum offered an exceptional collection of ancient artifacts from different periods of Greek history. I was particularly struck by the extensive range of classical sculptures, ceramics, and mosaics. The exhibits provided practical examples of topics I had previously studied only in theory, deepening my comprehension of ancient material culture.
- The Acropolis of Rhodes:** Climbing the hill to the Acropolis offered not only breathtaking views but also a closer look at ancient Greek architecture. This visit, which included seeing the Temple of Apollo, served as a crucial link between the theoretical aspects of ancient history and their real-world manifestations.
- Engagement with Local Culture:** I also took time to engage with the local Greek culture, attending a traditional music festival and sampling regional cuisine. This provided a more holistic understanding of Rhodes beyond its historical sites and added depth to my cultural awareness.

Impact on Academic Progress

The trip significantly advanced my academic understanding as I had the opportunity to delve into what practicing medicine is like in Greece and network with key leaders here. It was particularly beneficial to witness the coexistence of various historical periods in

Rhodes and the aspects of ancient medicine practised here. This fusion of history contributed to a more nuanced perspective in my studies.

Conclusion

My trip to Rhodes was a deeply rewarding experience, both academically and personally. The Expedition fund was instrumental in making this journey possible, and it allowed me to engage with a rich historical and cultural landscape that directly contributed to my academic work. The trip exceeded my expectations, offering not only a deeper understanding of ancient and medieval history but also a lasting personal connection to Greece. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity provided by QMUL, and I am confident that the insights gained during this trip will continue to influence my academic journey for years to come.

