

My name is Vanja Stojanovic and I come from Serbia. I was born 31.07.1988 in the city on the South of Serbia called Nis. At the University of Nis I have finished my bachelor and master studies of biology and decided to start my PhD studies.



At the beginning of 2013 I decided to participate for Erasmus Mundus (SIGMA) scholarship at the University of Montpellier to begin my PhD level. In May the same year, I got results that I have been selected to receive Erasmus Mundus Scholarship as TG3 for full PhD mobility level. I have decided to choose the University of Montpellier since it is one of the partner Universities within Erasmus Mundus, but also, because of the highly interesting project which I wanted to work on during my PhD.

Choosing University of Montpellier was an excellent idea because of a few reasons. This University was established in 1289 which makes him as one of the oldest Universities in Europe. With around 2000 academic staff and more than 40000 students, University of Montpellier is one of the most important educational institutions in France for both French and foreign students. In addition, all the students could use a lot of benefits such as additional financial support for accommodation, a lot of different reductions for transport, cinema, museums etc.



A lot of cultural and international events, parties sport events etc. have made Montpellier as a perfect and live environment with amazing atmosphere for all the students. Furthermore, the seaside is just few kilometres from the city centre, which is very approachable for everybody since the transportation is very good organized by tramways and buses. Finally, the main reason why we are going there is education. Educational level at the University of Montpellier is very high. The knowledge which students can get is very

precious, but also practical activities and training is very good organized, which is for example very significant advantage comparing with some other Universities.



Concerning my PhD thesis, I performed my work at the Faculty of Pharmacy, within the University of Montpellier. During my thesis I learned and improved a lot of new things such as nanomaterials, new innovative ways of cancer treatment and diagnosis, creative way of thinking and organizing experiments, but also, team working, project management, communication with people from different countries and environments etc. Finally, I successfully defended my PhD thesis with the title “Porous silicon nanoparticles (pSiNPs) for imaging and photodynamic therapy of small solid cancers” on July 25 this year and obtained the doctoral degree. This was the end of one successful mission, but also beginning of the next chapter in my life.



Studying abroad, except diploma, gives a lot of unique advantages which every student should benefit. After 3 years in France I improved my English, learned French, got international experience, travelled and made a lot of friends. I really enjoyed in all these things and if you ask me to do it again, I would like to!

In a professional way, by finishing my PhD I got my diploma and published a lot of scientific papers, which is highly important for everybody involved in science. In addition I met a lot of professors, companies, and a lot of people on the conferences, seminars, international evenings. These connections are highly important for the future work and professional development which everybody should plan in advance.

At the end I would like to say that last 3 years in Montpellier were really amazing experience which definitely changed my life. Following my example, I would like to recommend everybody to get ready and start with this amazing life journey!!!

Merci beaucoup!!!



vanja Stojanović