

Arenberg-Coimbra Group Prize for Erasmus Students
The speech of the 2021 Laureate, Katharina Wenderott
29th of June 2021

Dear Duke of Arenberg, Dear Coimbra Group,

I feel very honoured that I was selected to receive this years' prize on my work.

I wrote my masters' thesis on the work demands of nurses which has been a pressing issue even before the pandemic. Most countries experience a shortage in trained healthcare professionals, especially in the least developed countries. This has also been recognized by the United Nations by integrating this topic into the sustainable development goals.

I believe that the question of how to ensure working health systems is a topic where we need to network across nations. And I think due to the pandemic now more than ever it is evident how important international cooperation is to solve problems arising in our globalized world.

During my time at the University of Granada I truly learned, how important it is to exchange ideas between countries and cultures, especially because the majority of my university classes consisted of group discussions or projects. This learning environment promoted students to learn with and from each other. An erasmus semester is an amazing opportunity that enriches your life and you return to your country with an open mind full of new perspectives and ideas to share.

So I want to thank my Home University, especially the people from my institute who made my stay possible, despite some difficulties in the application process. A huge thank you goes to the University of Granada and to my inspiring professors there. I also thank the Coimbra Group and the Arenberg Foundation for recognizing the importance of the Erasmus Program by dedicating this prize to it.

So, to conclude I want bring up a quote by the founder of the Scout Movement, where I am volunteering in my free time, Lord Robert Baden-Powell, which is: Leave the world a bit better than you found it. And I think by taking part in the Erasmus Program or enabling students to experience intercultural exchanges, we are all contributing to this goal.

Thank you, Gracias, Danke