

Participant Report ERASMUS + Mobility

Universidade Lusíada de Lisboa

R. da Junqueira 188-198, 1349-001 Lisboa, Portugal

Master Degree, 3rd Semester

Before the Mobility:

Application Process for the University is quite transparent and easy. We have to fill in an online form and send all necessary documents via E-Mail. All modules and lecture are supposed to be found in Catalogo de Cursos on the lis.lusíada.pt website. I recommend to contact students who had already finished the exchange in Lisbon in order to choose the most interesting courses. We should be prepared for eventual changes in our Learning Agreements and try to manage it as soon as possible after arrival. Contact with coordinators is fine but it still takes a lot of time to collect all the necessary documents on time.

Accommodation:

It is definitely easier to find a nice room in a central location in Lisbon than in other European capital cities. There are a lot of useful websites like for instance uniplaces.com where students can find a place to stay for the whole semester. I personally, found a room through a Facebook group created particularly for exchange students. ESN and ELL (Student Organizations) also help to search for accommodation. Although Portugal is considered as a quite affordable country for holidays, rooms in Lisbon are mostly expensive. The grant covers in most cases only expenses for accommodation.

University:

The Lusíada University is a small private school. It is also a reason why there are only a few Erasmus students taking part in classes. For those, who want to improve their Portuguese skills it is definitely a perfect place to train. Although all modules are taught in Portuguese, most professors can speak fluently English. Me and my friends decided to take part in an annual course *Projecto III* (the final master degree module) and were really satisfied with the communication with our professors. The past semester was a bit tough. Everyone had a difficult time during the pandemic outbreak. Classes were taken online and during the hardest lockdown it was really a highlight of a day. Academicians in Portugal have a completely different approach to learning process comparing to our home university professors. Even architecture and design base on a research and creative discussion what really awakes students to be more engaged in gaining new knowledge and practical skills.

City:

Lisbon in a dream-place to be. A haptic, quite compact city, where one can feel to be a part of its community. Amazing social life, amazing places and people create a very positive atmosphere. Lisbon is located next to a beautiful river Tejo and close to the ocean. With the metropolitan ticket we can easily get to many breathtaking beaches and historic places like Sintra. Not only architecture students but all students would immediately fall in love with this city.

Although, as mentioned before, the last semester was a bit specific, with lots of unexpected situations due to the pandemic outbreak, I decided to stay for the whole period in Lisbon. Enjoyed moments of solitude and melancholy on empty streets. I could not imagine a better place to stay during this difficult times and have really learned here the art of being alone in a new place and how to slowly build my own community abroad.