

Universidade Lusíada de Lisboa  
Architecture Faculty  
Lisbon, Portugal  
WS 2019/2020

### Preparation

This semester abroad was already my second experience with the Erasmus + Programme so the preparation procedures and necessary documents were not that hard for me. Besides that, the International office provides a lot of support during the whole procedure.

The biggest challenge was to find a room in Lisbon. Some people start looking for accommodation after the arrival and in the beginning stay some time at a hostel. I preferred to find a room before, but it required a lot of patience in searching and caution, as there are many fake room offers. The rent of a single room in a shared apartment in Lisbon is from 300 to 500€ per month. It is also possible to find a cheaper room – either shared with another person or interior room without a window (surprising, but unfortunately very common in Lisbon).

### Arrival

After going through the room search successfully we can dive into the city life. Lisbon is a very unique vibrant place to live. It is possible to spend the whole first week just on strolling through the winding streets surrounded by beautiful buildings covered with azulejos (traditional colorful tiles) without getting bored.



Very special about Lisbon is that it is placed on seven hills, what definitely helps to stay fit (the streets are going constantly up and down).



All the efforts are compensated by magnificent views from different miraduros (viewing points) which are popular meeting spots both for tourists and locals.



## University

Universidade Lusíada de Lisboa is a private university and is placed not far from the river, on the way from the city center to a historical district Belem. The Faculty of Architecture is rather disappointing. The classrooms are small and cold. There is little space for working on the models and there was no workshop provided. It was interesting to see a different approach in teaching architecture and some professors were quite inspiring but if I would have a chance, I would choose another university in Lisbon. At Lusíada it felt more like being in a school where the students come to the classes just because the presence is compulsory, without engaging much. The support from the side of Erasmus office was also not the best.

The classes are taught mainly in Portuguese but most of the professors were speaking also English, so they were able to switch between the two languages. Nevertheless, the very basic knowledge of Portuguese is very helpful – both at the university and in everyday life.

## Summing-up

Lisbon is a very international, wonderful city which is definitely worth visiting. It is a special experience to be able to live there like a local for a while. Beautiful weather, relaxed people and stunning views are compensating all the other disadvantages of university and daily life. You just need to be careful – Lisbon is a very addictive city and it is hard to come back to Germany afterwards.

