

Exchange Lisbon

General information

From the 1st of September 2015 till the 15th of January I studied at Nova School of Business and Economics in Lisbon.

Please write down at which university, in which city and country you studied abroad and during which period.

Preparation

You do not need to arrange much when you go to Lisbon. At the end of May you will receive an email from the exchange coordinator of Nova with all the information you need: when classes will start, which courses are available, how to enrol in the courses and a welcome guide with all the information you need about Lisbon.

In summer you already need to enrol in the courses. This happens according to a first come, first served basis, so make sure you are on your computer at that time or classes might be full. When you are not satisfied with the courses you picked you can change courses during the first two weeks of the semester.

It is really easy to find an accommodation in Lisbon. A friend told me about a nice apartment he was in on his exchange in Lisbon. This way I knew it was safe to transfer money, but do not just send money to a housing company you have found on the internet!! There are people who have sent money to housing companies that didn't even exist. Also, you might not like the apartment you booked. This is why I would recommend to stay in a hostel for the first few days and find a place when you are there yourself. "Erasmus Life Lisboa" is an organisation comparable to "ESN", who will help you to find a nice place. You do not have to worry about not finding accommodation because there are plenty in Lisbon!

Arrival

When you arrive in Lisbon I highly recommend you to go to the "Erasmus Life Lisboa (ELL)" office. They will help you with everything you need. They can arrange housing for you and they will help you to get a public transport card. For about 35 euro a month you have unlimited access to metro, bus and train within Lisbon. Furthermore, they will give you a SIM-card. For only 8 euro a month you receive 500MB, 500 minutes and unlimited texting. Services like WhatsApp, Facebook messenger and Skype are not part of the 500MB and you can use these services unlimitedly. Finally, "ELL" will give you information about all the fun activities they arrange. Especially in the first few weeks of the semester, there is an activity almost every day, varying from city tours to pub crawls and trips to different cities. You can also buy an "ELL" card which gives you discounts in bars and clubs.

Also Nova SBE arranged a welcome dinner, a barbeque and a boat party to get to know your fellow students. At these activities you meet a lot of new people and it is a lot of fun!

Courses

Strategy 7.5 ECTS

This course has similar aspects with Micro Economics. Subjects like Cournot and Bertrand were discussed together with a little bit of game theory. Furthermore we learned what the optimal wage of an employee is to make him give the most effort.

During the course we had to make two problem sets in groups of 4 of 7.5 percent of the grade each, two cases of 10 percent of the grade each, one mid-term of 25 percent of the grade and a final exam of 40 percent of the grade.

I definitely liked the course itself and the teacher was nice and helpful too. Exchange students get a lot of extra attention from him. The course was also quite easy to pass because of all the assignments we had to make. If you got a decent grade for these assignments you did not need a high grade for the exam.

Management Accounting 7.5 ECTS

These course discusses the main principles of management accounting. The grade consists of two mid-terms of 20 percent each and a final exam of 60 percent. So no assignments had to be made during this course.

I did not know anything about accounting so for me the course was useful. If you have already participated in accounting courses I would not recommend the course.

Introduction to Modern and Contemporary History 4 ECTS

In this course the teacher took us through history from the year 500 until today. We discussed events that occurred during these years and how they created the society today. We had to write two essays with a group of 4 people for 30 percent of the grade. The final exam was 70 percent of the grade.

I thought the course was really interesting. It freshens up your memory, but you will also learn new things. Especially the coherence of the events was interesting.

Law of Business and Economics 4 ECTS

This course takes you through the main principles of law: like contract law, property ect. The grade consists of a midterm of 30 percent and a final exam of 70 percent. The course a nice introduction if you do not know anything about law. The teacher is really good and tells funny stories, which make it nice to go to the lecture. Furthermore the course is easy to pass.

Portuguese Language and Culture 4 ECTS

You can take this Portuguese language course at different levels. So also for people who already speak Portuguese this course is recommended. It is nice to know some Portuguese during your stay in Lisbon so you can order something in a restaurant or a supermarket, but don't expect to learn much more. Beside the language classes we also did some cultural events. We made a city tour which

took us to the main buildings in Lisbon and visited some palaces. Besides the final exam we also had to make some small assignments and a presentation about your country.

Finances

Monthly expenditures	
Rent	365
Mobile phone cost (at home)	24
Mobile phone cost (in Lisbon)	8
Public transport card	36
Health insurance	60
Tuition fee (from home university)	160
Food	150
Social life	280
Total	1083
One-of-a-time expenditures	
Portuguese language course	50
Trips (to Algarve, Porto and Azores)	600
Flight tickets	250
Total	900

I received 220 euro per month from the Erasmus plus grant. I also received about 100 euro for public transport from DUO. Do not forget to apply for both!

Daily life

Daily life in Lisbon is very relaxed. People are friendly and relaxed (when they are not in traffic). My classes always started in the afternoon, which gave me the perfect opportunity to go out almost every night. The nightlife in Lisbon is amazing. In Bairro Alto you have an enormous number of bars with beer, sangria and shots for only 1 euro. Instead of staying in the bar, hundreds of people stand on the street, which is really nice. When those bars close at 2 AM, people move from Bairro Alto to clubs like Urban Beach, Lust and Lux. Besides going out the weather until the end of October is perfect to go to the beach and go surfing when you have a day off. For only 40 euro you get five surf lessons, including equipment. Furthermore there are very nice places in the neighbourhood of Lisbon worth visiting, like Cascais, Sintra and Belém. Also "Erasmus Life Lisboa" organises weekend trips to the Algarve, Porto and Coimbra. With all these events your stay in Lisbon will feel like a holiday every day. You will meet amazing people from all over the world, who might give you a good reason to plan your next holiday in their country. This will definitely be one of the greatest experiences in your life so go for it!