

ATHENS – GREECE Fall 2016/2017

General information

I did my exchange in Athens, Greece at the Athens University of Economics and Business (AUEB). This was not my first choice, to be honest. But I am so happy that all my other choices did not work out. I met amazing people here and Athens is a-ma-zing! If you want a good impression of my exchange read further or go to my Youtube-channel: romanofski12, because I Vlogged my whole experience.

Preparation

For your exchange in any country you must arrange some papers. AUEB requires your level of English to be at least B2. For this you don't need a TOEFL-test, a certificate of the EUR is also fine. Since Greece is in the European Union, you do not need a visa for your stay. After you are nominated for your university you need to apply to the university. For your Erasmus Grant you also need to fill in the first part of the Learning Agreement, to be found on the website of AUEB and make the English test. Make sure your debit card works internationally. Do all this as soon as possible, as all the fill-in work takes some time.

As for accommodation, I would recommend you to start early and find something good. Of course it's all personal, but the Greek style of living is very old-fashioned and I do not like to live like this. Therefore, I kept on searching until I found something more suitable for me (you are staying here a whole semester, so it is worth the effort). For accommodation, you could go to StayInAthens.com, the *Athens Erasmus student Accomodation Greece* on Facebook where I found my apartment. Eventually I took an apartment of ERasmusRoomsAthens (also on Facebook).

Arrival

Athens is very big and I can imagine that if you are there for the first time you want to play it safe and take a taxi to your apartment. The better thing to do is taking the metro (€1.40 for students) or the bus (€3 for students), since the public transportation is so easy. If this is anyway too risky, make an Uber account, since Uber is not (yet) illegal in Athens and way cheaper than the taxi.

My semester at AUEB started in October, so I came to Athens around the end of September just to take some bearings and of course for the introduction week. I would really recommend you to participate in the ESN introduction week since you meet a lot of people. The best part of this week was the Mykonos trip: sun, sea and beach everyday and party during the day **and** during the night.

Courses

AUEB requires you to take 30 ECTS, even if you need less. A lot of people didn't need 30 credits, so for some courses they just didn't make the exam. I asked EUR to send AUEB an email with the question to only follow four courses and it worked. You can miss three courses of each class, the rest of it is compulsory. The good thing is that most the courses are only once a week. Also, the exams are really not that difficult. All the courses are worth 6 ECTS.

Cost and Management Accounting

This course is pretty much the same as Intermediate Accounting in block 5 of the bachelor-2. Some subjects include joint process costing, activity-based costing, cost accumulation for job shop and batch production and financial and cost-volume-profit models. The exam is a two-hour written examination. Studying the PowerPoint slide and making the exercises seriously should be enough to pass.

Human Resource Management

This class is an introduction to Human Resource Management. It aims at familiarizing students with the theoretical background of HRM. It is mostly about encouraging employees in modern organizations, the importance of HRM in the organizational strategy and HRM practices and current trends. For this course, you get a grade for class participation, the group assignment and the written exam. As for the last two: they are not that hard.

Financial Management

This course is divided into two groups: group one is concerned with the most important methods of Investment Appraisal and group two is concerned with Financing Decisions. A lot of the components (such as: risk analysis, net cash flow, dividend policy, bond and share valuations) we have already seen in previous courses at EUR. Therefore, this course is not that hard. Only three weeks before the exam, the professor decided to give an assignment (typical Greek style, not as organized as in the Netherlands) which count for 30%. The other 70% was a written test in the form of exercises.

Greek Culture and Language Course

In this course, you learn about the Greek Culture, to read and to speak Greek. Since exchange is not only about studying (in my opinion), but also about meeting new people, living on your own in a foreign country and seeing a whole different culture, I would recommend you this course. It is something different than only studying economics and you will learn a lot. The exam was not that hard.

Finances

This all depends on your way of living. I do not drink alcohol at all, so I saved a lot of money there. What I know is that the prices at the ESN parties are not that high: for around 3 euro's you could get a large beer.

For the rent, you will not spend more than €350. Transportation is for students €1.40 for 1.5 hours. I lived at literally 1 minute walking distance from the university (Kipselis), so also saved a lot of money here. I did not buy any books. The prices for the groceries are more or less the same as in the Netherlands and I cook everyday. Students here order a lot of pizza and pita gyros which will be under the €7. I used Uber a lot: for 3-4€ for more or less 15 minutes distance. All in all I spend around €900-€1000 each month (but keep in mind that I do not drink alcohol).

Daily life

The life in Athens is surprisingly amazing. You get your coffee and koulouri (= Greek bread) every morning, since it is cheap. You don't need to study as hard as in the Netherlands so you have a lot of time to travel around. So definitely go and visit some of Greece's amazing islands. Also the nightlife in Gazi is good. Gazi is like the "Stadhuisplein" of Rotterdam: if you don't like one bar, you just go on to the other.

Don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Kalimera, Romana Ramhiet

