Studying in Lisbon with Erasmus+

Elisa Saks – 30.11.2023
About Me
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in Munich:
• MSc Biomedical Engineering & Medical Physics at TUM

in Lisbon:
• Erasmus+ during winter term 2022/23 (3rd semester) → additional semester between course and research phase
• MSc Biomedical Engineering at Instituto Superior Técnico Lisboa
Why Lisbon?
Why Lisbon?

• very popular destination for Erasmus+ → many young people from all over Europe at many different universities
• major European city and capital, but not too big
• endless possibilities for activities
• great starting point to travel Portugal
• weather (September – early November, late January)
Studying at
Studying at IST as part of the University of Lisbon
- two campuses: Alameda (central) and Tagus Park
- main language of teaching (Master’s degrees): English
- great support system for Erasmus+ students
The semester is split into two blocks:

- Welcome Week (early September)
- 7 weeks of classes (mid September – late October)
- 1 preparation week + 1 examination week (early November)
- 7 weeks of classes (mid November – mid January)
- 1 preparation week + 1 examination week (late January)
- appeal period: 1 preparation week + 1 examination week (early February)
Classes

- usually run over the course of one block (7 weeks)
- consist of lectures, exercise sessions, seminars...
- several times a week, even for 3 ECTS classes
- learning is quite fast-paced
- strong focus on active learning and group work (different from my experience at TUM)
Exams and Grading

• final grade rarely consists of the exam only
• final grade usually consists of exercise/programming tasks, group projects, papers...
• grading system: 0-20 points (10 required to pass a course)
Housing
• WG does not really exist in Portugal
• student residencies usually booked up
• many companies specialized in short-term rental for Erasmus+
• prices for a room in a shared apartment: 300-600 €
• start looking as early as possible and beware of scams!!
• language: Portuguese not necessarily required, but always nice
  • language courses at TUM beforehand
  • language courses at IST (sign up early!)
  • many commercial language schools available
• public transport: well developed, 30-40 € per month with the personalized navegante card
• prices for groceries and daily necessities similar to Germany
• going out might be cheaper (depending on the area)
Besides Studying...
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- enjoy the city
- try some Portuguese delicacies
- check out Lisbon’s museums
- try a new sport: Surfing or Padel
- join the university sports team
- join organized activities offered by Erasmus+ agencies
Besides Studying...

Traveling the country is fairly cheap, fast and easy!

- Lisbon metropolitan area: Cascais, Caparica, Sintra
- Northern Portugal: Porto, Braga, Douro valley, Aveiro
- Central Portugal: Coimbra and Évora
- Algarve: Lagos and Faro
- Islands: Madeira and Azores
Obrigada!
And have a great Erasmus+ experience.