

Erasmus Experience Report

Instituto Superior Técnico, Lisboa

Preparation

I choose IST, since it's the University offering the ocean energy specialization for my Masters. Preparation included applying for Erasmus and getting the learning agreement signed from the coordinators from both Universities. Application to courses at IST was done through Fenix, which is the organizing platform of IST. We can choose the subjects of study as well as the timetable of the course (although most of my subjects were at fixed time slots) through the platform. The coordinators were very responsive and helped a lot while applying. It is important to note that Bachelors is referred as 1st study cycle whereas Masters as 2nd study cycle at IST. And each semester is divided into two parts. (for 1^o it is 1st & 2nd period, for 2^o it is 3rd & 4th period for Masters).

Travel and arrival

I booked the flight from Frankfurt to Lisbon, and it is suggested to book early, as flight fares rise nearing to the date of travel. Aeroporto Metro station is on the red line and is connected to major parts of Lisbon. So, traveling to the accommodation was very straight forward.

Accommodation

It was suggested to find accommodation as early as possible and nearer to the University in Alameda. The average rent is around 500 Euros per month. I booked through Inlife website, and I was told that Uniplaces is also a trustable platform. My room was just 10 minute walk from the University.

Studying at IST

Courses and schedules were quite hectic compared to Oldenburg. Some subjects had up to four assignments as well as a final exam. There will be a preparation week between periods for exams/assignments. Getting a very high grade in assignments requires additional research beyond the problem statement. Classes were recorded and was very helpful to revisit. The civil building was open 24x7 and was useful for studying till late night.

Life in Lisbon

Lisbon is a beautiful city with mix of rich cultural heritage and modern amenities, while offering a pleasant sunny weather. Compared to other Western European capitals, Lisbon is relatively affordable. Sintra mountains have good trails hiking trails and beaches in

Caparica and Cascais offers surfing spot. Metro offers free monthly card for students under the age of 23 .

Welcome week at IST offered various events including visiting places in Lisbon and surfing. We were divided into groups and had a student mentor to show around during the welcome week. Erasmus Student Network is very active here and organizes various events throughout the semester. The workload of the semester was quite high and kept me away from most of the events.

General Experience

Overall, my experience at IST in Lisbon has been incredibly enriching, both academically and personally even though balancing social life and studies was quite tiring. The opportunity to specialize in ocean energy at a leading institution like IST, combined with the support from both my home and host universities, made the transition smooth and fulfilling.

It is recommended to take advantage of initial weeks, as preparation and evaluation weeks are very busy weeks. It also provided ample opportunities to connect with fellow students and explore the city, though the heavy academic workload limited my participation in some activities.

In conclusion, my time at IST has been marked by rigorous academic growth, cultural immersion, and the development of new connections. It has been a rewarding experience that has prepared me well for future challenges in my field.