

STUDENT EXPERIENCE REPORT

I am enrolled in European Masters in Renewable Energy which involves a specialization semester. My specialization provider was National Technical University Athens in Greece. Study involved specialization semester of four months starting from February to May 2015. I was granted Erasmus scholarship for the same by University of Oldenburg. Mrs. Alexandra Dermitzaki from NTUA helped me to find an accommodation in Athens.

I had a fellow student accompanying me to Athens. We planned to travel on 4th February 2015 as semester was commencing on 9th February. We booked tickets on EasyJet from Hamburg airport to Athens International airport. We reached Athens after six hours of travel. University is located quite far from the airport and we reached the place after one hour and thirty minutes of travel by metro and taxi.

Accommodation was located quite close to the university and could be reached by 15 minutes of walk. House was well furnished with a refrigerator, washing machine, and electrical stove, good number of beds, bed sheets, towels and utensils. However, initially I faced some difficulty in the house as they had disconnected heating facility as they couldn't afford the bills. It was really tough staying in such a cold place as it caused some health issues. Later our land lady arranged an electrical room heater which was not fully sufficient for two people, but was of some respite. I advise please confirm if heating facility is operational in the house before booking it.

Classes started on 9th February, as scheduled. Initial classes focused on basic concepts of wind turbines and operating principles. Mr. George Carallis was the co-coordinator for the course and he provided us with some valuable information regarding the course and living in Athens. University provided us with meal cards, with which one can avail free breakfast and lunch in university canteen. There is also a great facility called Passo cards for students issued by government of Greece, with which one can get 50% discount on almost anything. It involves discounts on Mobile tariffs, travelling tickets etc. We also registered at Erasmus office in the university, which arranges for academic support such as credit transfer, documents required etc.

Wind specialization course in NTUA is very well organized with very experienced professors such as Mr. Spyros and Mr. Vasilis. Their sessions were highly engaging and informative. Technical knowledge gained during the course was significant and valuable. They also provided with Wind Energy Handbooks for individual students which were of great help. Course involved sessions from experts and market leading companies in the field. We visited Centre for Renewable Energy Sources (CRES), central renewable energy research center in Greece for seven days. Sessions involved expert lectures and demonstrations in their laboratories. We also had expert sessions regarding electrical systems, control systems, economics, environmental aspects etc. Industrial experts from DNV GL conducted training sessions on market leading soft

wares such as GH Wind Farmer, GH Bladed. Visits to wind farms were organized by George, which provided information regarding real time operations of the wind farms.

Most significant part of the course was a project on wind farm. We were provided with real time data and soft wares to process them. It involved comprehensive study of all basic concepts and applications of basic concepts. This actually helped in preparation for exams and finding internship. We also submitted a mini project, which involved a presentation and final report. We also participated in a challenge, where a group of two students built working models of small wind turbines and lift six coils to the height of one meter.

Greece is a beautiful country with rich historical heritage. Weekends were generally occupied with visiting the historical places. I also visited Santorini Island with 4 fellow EUREC students. Island is very beautiful with visitors from all over the world visiting the place. Weekend trips are arranged regularly during weekends by Erasmus student group and Athensmus group to places in Greece at very reasonable price. Athens has good transport network with well-connected metro trains and buses. However, some of the buses and trains are older and sometimes get scary. There are good number of super markets and restaurants at very reasonable price. Cuisine of Greece is very delicious with rich verities.

To conclude, Greek experience was very enriching with very good academic semester and visits to some world famous heritage sites. However, situation in Greece is not very great and one can expect some weird situations during their stay and need to do a good amount of background study before visiting Greece. National Technical University in Athens is of great quality with some really good professors. If one plans accommodation and social life in Greece well, the experience could be unforgettable.