

# Student Experience Report

EUREC Master of Renewable Energy – Wind Energy Specialisation

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**Host Institution:** National Technical University of Athens, Greece

**Study Period:** Feb 2015 – May 2015

**Preparation:** As a EUREC student, the planning and organisation of the semester in Athens was straightforward and the staff at NTUA were very helpful. Through EUREC I was also able to get in contact with past students to discuss any details that were required.

**Travel and arrival:** I flew into Athens International Airport and from there it is very easy to get a train into the city centre or get a taxi (the taxi fee from the airport is a fixed charge). My landlord met me at the apartment to show me around.

**Accommodation:** My accommodation was arranged with help from a member of NTUA staff. She was able to negotiate the rental agreement and I only ever dealt with her (rather than the apartment owner). I rented a two bedroom apartment and shared the apartment with one other EUREC student. The price included all utility bills and internet which greatly eased the hassle of trying to arrange utilities and internet for a short term period. The apartment was in Zografou area and was 20minutes walk from the university. There were buses, but they were not particularly reliable, so most of the time I would walk to and from university.

**Studying at NTUA:** There is already a comprehensive description of the course available in the EUREC material and the EUREC introduction sessions will be able to explain any questions one might have relating to the coursework.

**Everyday life and leisure time:** Athens, like any other large city, has all the facilities and entertainment options one would expect. February can be quite cold, so it would be advisable to bring some warm clothes, but the later months are quite mild to warm. There are many small kiosks that are open to late hours that sell food and drinks. There are many activities to see and do around Athens and the surrounding areas. I would very much recommend joining some of the Erasmus groups early on, as they are a great way to meet other students and see the attractions, often with local Greek students. AthensMus in particular were a group who ran a lot of trips for very low cost. Some of the more memorable trips included a day trip to Delphi, a trip to Mycanae, a trip to Patras for the Carnivale etc...

## **General tips:**

- Lodge the application for your student card (PASO) as soon as possible as it offers great discounts (half-price transport, free entry into archaeological sites and museums etc...) and you will want to use it early on
- If you get a Greek pre-paid sim, it could be advisable to get Vodafone because once your Paso arrives to can transfer the number over to a student version and get additional discounts

- Unless you plan on being in the city centre quite a lot, I would recommend staying in Zografou or as close to the university as possible (walking distance), because often the buses can be unreliable
- The break over Easter is a great chance to visit one of the Greek islands (Santorini, Mykonos, etc...) as it is very early in the season, so prices for accommodation are very low.
- If you visit any of the islands by ferry, don't forget to use your Paso card which entitles you to a 50% discount

**PHOTOS:**

