Student experience report

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Hosting university: National Technical University of Athens
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PREPARATION

I started studying the master program European Master Renewable Energy in October 2016 in the university of Oldenburg. According to the master schedule and my specialization (Wind Energy), the second semester was offered by National Technical University of Athens (Greece). Our coordinator and the international office of the university informed us well about the schedule and all the forms needed to be filled and submitted before, during and after mobility. In November 2016, the paperwork has been done, as well as the online English test. Lectures schedules and credit were sent by the international office at the hosting university; NTUA. So, I was ready to start the exciting Erasmus program.

ACCOMMODATION

Having arranged everything about the course at the university, I started looking for accommodation and buy the ticket to Athens. The tutor at NTUA sent us an email containing some links about available accommodations. But most of them were already booked or far from the university. Since it was four students from our master, who were going to Athens, we decided to rent a flat together. We knew number of previous Erasmus students, who have studied the same master. They introduced us to some people in Athens, who had places to offer to students. At the end we found a flat, close to the university.

TRAVELL & ARRIVAL

There were several direct flights from Hamburg to Athens and I travelled there with one of my classmates. We arrived in Athens on February 4th 2017. It was a nice weather and I was enjoying the new city. But unfortunately, the flat was a huge disappointment; it was old, too dark and cold and there were some difficulties with hot water and the heating system and the landlord was not taking any responsibility. Luckily, we could manage to find another flat and moved to the new place in one month. The orientation week was starting on 13th February, so I had enough time to explore the city and meet other Erasmus students.
STUDYING AT THE HOST UNIVERSITY

The orientation week started on 13\textsuperscript{th} February 2017, we met our coordinator at the university. He was a nice guy and guided all of us through different parts of the university such as international office, mechanical engineering school (where we had our lectures), cafeteria and canteen. It was a great start, however the university and the buildings were quite surprising.

![NTUA](image.png)

Figure 1- NTUA

From the first week, we had lectures in different topics. The first three days’ lectures were to introduce the topics which was going to be covered during this 4-month semester. The quality of lectures was very good; experienced lecturers who were always there to support us. We had number of projects and assignments; such as building our own wind turbine, which made our study more interesting.

EVERYDAY LIFE & LEISURE TIME

Erasmus experience is not just about studying and going to the university. It’s a great opportunity to meet countries and people with different cultures. One of the best ways to get to know a country is to learn the language. Of course, 4 month is not enough to learn the whole new language, specially the Greek language, which has its own special and unique alphabet. I participated in a Greek course, which was offered by the foreign language center at the university. It was a great experience, during the course I learned the basic grammar and vocabulary, as well
as the interesting facts about history of Greece and the life style of Greek, to be more precise Ελληνικά (Ellinika), which means Greek in their language

Greece is one of the oldest civilizations with a great history. The footprints of this huge history can be seen in all parts of the country. Luckily, we had the chance to visit some of these historical places in, such as Akropolis, Ancient Agora, Temple of Poseidon, Delfi, Meteora (Monasteries).

Beside these historical places, Greek culture is accompanied with carnivals, festivals, beautiful islands. One of the greatest carnivals in Europe is happening every year in Patra, which was an amazing event. During this four months, we could plan to visit some of the Greek islands (Santorini, Aegina...)

Figure 2 - Carnival in Patra

GENERAL EXPERIENCE

I really enjoyed these four month Erasmus experience. I met new people, made new friendships and learned a lot by studying at the NTUA. Athens is a quite expensive city, it is safe but there are some neighborhoods, which are not recommended to live in. It’s better to be informed about them before renting a flat. Public transportation is available, but not to all the places around Athens. People are nice and friendly, and university staff supported us in everything. Thanks to all for this amazing experience.