



Student Experience Report-MAHESH KUMAR

My name is Mahesh Kumar. I am an Indian. I joined University of Oldenburg to pursue EUREC Master Programme in October 2016. Prior to joining the master program, I had been working as a mechanical engineer in India. It's always a wonderful experience to come back to university after quitting a job as you start to feel fresh and young again, especially when you come abroad and get the chance to know many cultures all around the world. After my first core semester in Germany, I had to join the National Technical University of Athens, Greece for specialization semester in wind energy. Before I came to Germany I didn't know about any opportunity to apply for ERASMUS grant. But my course coordinator Mr. Eduard Knagge informed us about the application process for getting ERASMUS grant during the semester abroad in Athens. Mr. Eduard helped me in every viable way to apply and get this grant. My ERASMUS grant was approved. Thanks a lot, to the University of Oldenburg, especially to Mr. Eduard.

Now, the second task was to be done was to get ready for this exciting semester in Athens as ERASMUS grant holder student. I got my 70% of the ERASMUS grant before I left Oldenburg. It was very relaxing to have this fund to support my traveling, deposit for a stay, shopping for the new flat in Athens and so on. I flew from Hamburg to Athens International Airport. My landlord came to receive me. The moment I stepped out of the flight, I felt the awesome warm weather in Greece. I knew that I was going to be an awesome semester with a great learning experience and adventure in Greece. My landlord drove me to my new flat. But I was bit disappointed to see the flat. It wasn't the same as it looked online. Though it wasn't bad either, just that it couldn't match the expectation I got after seeing the online images. Apart from this everything was fine. After I settled at my new place, I registered myself in Erasmus Student Network (ESN). ESN is a group of students who have been granted ERASMUS grant. By being the member of this group, one can get the chance to meet many new friends. ESN organization various activities for all the student members like karaoke night, beach party, cultural event, visit to a new place in Greece, charity, social events to help the ones in need etc. I would really recommend incoming students to be the part of ESN student network to get the best out of your semester abroad.

During our orientation week at the university of Athens, we were guided properly by the administration. Every event that was to take place was well described to us to get most out of it. We had a visit to each section of the university i.e. library, gym, playground, classrooms, parks, music classed, dance classes etc. After the successful orientation week and after we got to know our faculty members, our professors showed their caring nature by motivating us to tell them any problems we were facing during our semester abroad. Their positive attitude was so soothing itself and I was very peaceful to be at such a delightful place and among generous and kind-hearted teachers and classmates. I would like to mention specifically two of our professors: George Caralis and Vasilis Riziotis for their very caring nature and their propensity to be the part of our every happiness and problem. These two professors really made our whole batch feel as if we were at our own home. We were invited to George's house on Ester. He made us feel special by letting us part of his family during the celebration.



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The lectures organized for us were very informative mixed with the experienced professionals and prominent speakers. Our course was a good blend of various subjects. Not only professors from NTUA, but experts from several industries were invited to provide us with their insights. The routine in Athens was so balanced. Classes in the morning, the lunch at the canteen at university with all the classmates, then basking in the sun after lunch, then study in the library with classmates. In the evening at weekends hanging out with the classmates and ESN students ☺. During the semester one of the best parts was the feeling of being in a family consisted of classmates. We celebrated everyone's birthday together with the class ☺. Exams were organized in an effective manner. The credit division for each subject or module was clearly explained to us. Regarding the credit transfer, I really didn't get any guidance from NTUA, but I asked ISO, Oldenburg and I got a satisfactory answer.

So, the conclusion is that my semester abroad was one of the best study and leisure time in my life. The University of Oldenburg and the National Technical University of Athens did their job very well by informing students on time about the ERASMUS grant and helping in each stage during the application and during the whole semester. Added to this, some suggestion for the incoming students that might be helpful depending on my experience (Though subjective) are as follows:

- Make sure with the landlord that everything you need in your accommodation is included in your rent.
- Don't forget to be the part of ESN student network.
- Explore Athens as much as you can and don't forget to visit islands ☺.
- Apply for your academic id cards early as in some cases it might take a very long time depriving you of many discounts at public visiting places and transport.
- Don't forget to keep checking for the link for OLS to take the language test. In my case I didn't get any link to ask for taking the test and then It slipped from my mind.

