

Student Experience Report
National Technical University of Athens; February – June 2014



Temple of Hephaestus

Preparation

Moving to another city or country, makes you realize how many things you have accumulated and that you have to pack it somehow! Is better to prepare with at least one week of anticipation of your travel and realize if you really need everything for your next location or you could leave something behind; if is useful, perhaps a friend could use it or even better you could give it as donation.

The sooner you book the flight tickets and find accommodations in Greece the better, the connections to Athens are not many if you are looking for low prices and finding an apartment from distance can be tricky and time consuming. In my case, I book the tickets with my two roommates in early December, for a travel in February, and we could find tickets from Hamburg to Athens in a considerably good price. The next week, we analyzed a few options for apartments and decided where we want it to live; by doing this, we were free of worries of finding a place to live and flights during our final exams.

Travel and arrival

If your arrival at the Eleftherios Venizelos Airport of Athens is after 5 am but before midnight, you could use the metro line that departure from the airport, the cost of the ticket is 8 euros per person. If your arrival is after midnight and before 5 am, you need to take a taxi; the cost of the taxi depends, of course, in the address that you are going to, however, for an apartment close to the University the taxi should cost around 40 euros.

Accommodation

The area close to the University it's call Zografou, the average rent is around 300 euros and you can find flats or rooms in dorms with shared areas. In my case, the apartment was at 2 km from the University and could walk almost every day to class. When looking for accommodations, it is important to ask for final prices (if includes all utilities, which ones, etc.) and asking for pictures of everything that is advertise. Get in touch with the Master's coordinator at NTUA (National Technical University of Athens) he will put you in contact with the right person for accommodations.

Studying at NTUA



EURE Wind specialization group 2013-2014 at CRES Wind Farm

The NTUA is the Polytechnic School in Athens and it host the engineering undergraduate and post graduate programs. The courses that I took in NTUA were part of the wind specialization of the EUREC Master in Renewable Energy, and were host by the mechanical engineering department.

The courses are divide in three main sections. The first one included aerodynamics, aero elasticity and statistics. In this section, we also had the opportunity to use a software called GAST where we could model loads in turbine blades using different scenarios and wind characteristics. The second section was deliver during two intense weeks in the Center for Renewable Energy Sources of Greece (CRES); in these weeks, we discuss topics like certification of wind turbines, calibration of anemometers, blade designs and material properties, electrical and mechanical issues, among many other subjects taught from different guest lecturers. In this section, we also learned how to use a software called Bladed, this software was teach by an expert of DNV-GL. In the third section, other complementary topics were include such as environmental issues, offshore wind, economics, wake effect, and also another important software was teach, the Wind Farmer, and was deliver by DNV-GL as well.

To complete the specialization, a mini project was complete by each student; in this paper, we were free to choose a wind related topic from a list of suggestion in preparation of the future master thesis. The report was submit and a presentation was deliver to the students and the members of the academic staff.

Everyday life and leisure time

Athens is a very interesting and cultural city, the list of places to visit are endless and the time is very short. The supermarkets, cafeterias and bakeries are open all day, from Monday to Saturday, while most of the other stores are close during siesta time, which is between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Almost everything is close on Sunday, except cafeterias, bakeries and restaurants. In addition, almost all the pharmacies are close, only one per area is open, in case you need to buy medicaments on Sunday, go to the nearest pharmacy and a list is post outside with the name and address of the pharmacies open. For the groceries I recommend you to make a list of what you need to buy and translated to Greek at home, at least while you get use to the Greek names!.



Visiting Philopappou Hill with the Acropolis in the background.

For entertainment, I highly recommend staring with the Acropolis, the Acropolis Museum, Philopappou Hill and Plaka. This place is the oldest neighborhood in Athens and is full of things to see, monuments, restaurants, bars and much more. The food is amazing, truly amazing and you can find traditional sites in Plaka or Monasteraki. If you are looking for nightlife, the areas of Keramikos and Monasteraky are the places that you could visit first. The most traditional drinks are the ouzo and raki, and almost every restaurant gives these drinks as gift to the people after finishing the meals.

General experience

My experience in Greece was amazing. The professors and guest lectures at NTUA were very experienced and helpful. The Greeks are very kind and are always keen to help. The culture and the places to visit in Athens are incredible, try to visit and experience the most you can and don't miss the opportunity to taste the Greek cuisine in every opportunity.