

## Personal Report

### Instituto Politécnico do Porto, WiSe 2021/22, 1 Semester FB 3 - International Business Administration - Bachelor

#### Language

**Which language did you use? How did you communicate with your fellow students?**

I used English the whole time and I took the Portuguese A1 course the University offered

**How well were you able to follow classes linguistically at the partner institution? Did the partner university provide language classes?**

I could follow the classes very well. The university offered language courses during the semester.

#### Accommodation

**Did the host university arrange for accommodation? How would you describe the quality of your accommodation?**

No, unfortunately the possibility did not exist. The quality of my accommodation was very good.

**How high were your overall monthly costs for accommodation (in Euro)?**

380€

**How well was the accommodation situated? How long did it take you on average to reach the partner university (in minutes)?**

25 min walking distance from university and 30 min bus ride to the centre

**Which web sites, forums, facebookpages, contacts, etc. can you recommend for looking for accommodation?**

Uniplaces and Inlife

**Where have you been accommodated (name of dormitory, location, part of town, etc.)?**

The name of the dorm is Porto Studios, it has a lot of shops around and good connection to the city

## **Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation**

**Which is the best arrival time?**

One week before the orientation week

**How did you organize your arrival? Were all important questions answered? What did you have to find out yourself? How fast were you able to get in contact with the domestic students?**

I arrived 2 days before the orientation week started and my buddy picked me up at the airport and went with me to my accommodation. The first 2 days we just visited the city and during the orientation we found out more about the city, the university rules and the schedule. We could get into contact with domestic students from the first day, but as all the classes were with Erasmus students all my friends were international, I didn't have so much contact to Portuguese students just the people who were organising activities for us. The services for exchange students were very good in ISCAP, as they had some classes just for Erasmus students and they had an organisation named COMAP who was in charge of Erasmus students. They were organising nice activities. Outside of the university there was also ESN Porto organising daily activities for all Erasmus students in Porto.

## **Living Abroad**

**Compared to Frankfurt, how high was the cost of living abroad? What additional expenses did you have during your semester abroad?**

A bit less expensive than here. I recommend Lidl.

**How far were you able to travel with your semester ticket? How were the libraries? Was their use free? Did the university provide computer workplaces/ computer pools? Was Wi-Fi available on-campus? Did the university provide a sports program? Was this free of charge?**

The semester ticket was 30 euros/month until 23 years old in all the zones of Porto. The university had one Mensa and two bars, you would pay between 3-5 euros for a meal with a drink. The library was free and there was another place where you could study between courses, some classrooms were provided with computers for our use. The sports program was free but as it was in Portuguese I never tried it.

## **Studying at the Host University**

**How would you describe the academic standard of classes compared to Frankfurt?**

A bit easier.

**Did you experience any difference in teaching methods/ class structure? Which were the difference regarding your expectations and your experiences at the partner university?**

You could choose between continuous assessment and final assessment. Continuous assessment required at least 75% presence and consisted of test/projects/presentations/groupworks during the semester depending on the teacher's wants. Final assessment didn't require any presence just the exam at the end of the semester. Personally I chose the continuous assessment and I think it was good as there was not so much stress like for one exam. We were treated like Portuguese students, the staff was nice, they could speak a bit of English sometimes. I didn't have any difficulties.

## **Final Remarks**

**What should future exchange students know/ do/ avoid? How would you overall rate your exchange experience? In what ways have you benefitted academically, personally, linguistically for your future career?**

I've gained skills regarding intercultural communication and language, cultural awareness, self-awareness, adaptability, confidence, problem solving and a sense of responsibility and independence. I loved my exchange experience, I think exchange students who come to Portugal will be welcomed very good. I gained a lot of experience I learned a lot of things about other cultures and about myself, my English level improved a lot and I gathered a lot of amazing memories. My exchange semester will remain unforgettable because I met people from all around the world, open minded, enthusiastic people, I made a lot of friends, I was free to do what I wanted the whole time, I traveled a lot, I learned a lot of new things, I changed in a good way and I gained a lot of life experience. It was the best year of my life.