

Experience report study abroad semester

How was it?

You may have heard this question more often now that you are at the end of your semester abroad. The International Center would also like to know how you evaluate your semester abroad. The experience reports will be published and serve to help orient others going abroad. The International Office would also like to use the contents for advertising purposes if necessary. We would therefore like you to keep this in mind when filling out the report.

1. General information

Please do not mention any personal information (name, e-mail address, etc.) in the experience report.

I agree to the publication of the report and the attached photos:

yes ☒ No ☐

New outgoing students sometimes ask us for a way to contact alumni outgoings. Are we allowed to pass on your contact details in case of enquiries?

yes ☐ No ☒

Study program at EUF

European Cultures and Society

Discipline combination (if BABW)

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Host country

Portugal

Host university

Instituto Politécnico de Lisboa

Semester abroad (e.g. winter semester 2020/21)

WS 2020/21

2. Your story

At this point you can now tell your stories from abroad. Often it is not so easy to tell about your experiences abroad in such a compressed way. We have therefore prepared some reflection questions to help you do this. At the end of the questionnaire, you will also find a free field for you to fill in, in which you are welcome to enter aspects that are not covered by any of these questions.

How did you prepare for the semester abroad?

I found a beautiful long-stay hotel on [uniplaces.com](https://www.uniplaces.com), booked a flight, rented out my apartment here, packed my suit case and left! There is no need for too much preparation!

How did you establish social networks in your host country? Do you have any tips on how this can be achieved?

First of all, I met many people in the long-stay hotel, who immediately became good friends. Also, there are Erasmus groups on facebook that make it really easy to meet new people. Furthermore, there are many fellow students at university you are going to meet.

What I would have liked to know before going abroad?

Sometimes it is better to get to know a place/ country/ city through your personal experiences.

How was the study program at the partner university structured?
(e.g. premises, workload, language of instruction, examination forms, accessibility)
What intercultural encounters/competencies shaped your stay?

Well, 6 courses in total, partly online, partly face-to-face. Nice campus, a little old fashioned, but works. Most professors speak English really well. The organisation is quite good. Everyone warmly welcomed me. My professors were really easy going and there was always a chance to have a nice conversation after class as well.

What intercultural encounters/competencies shaped your stay?

Lisbon is an absolute fantastic and easy-going city. The atmosphere is great. The owner of the coffee around the corner knew what I like for breakfast within a week, the bar owners around became friends and an open-minded Portuguese/ international community built up around me within a couple of weeks.

Which perspectives on the host country/country of origin have changed and why?

I went with just a few information on Lisbon (Portugal). Absolutely beautiful country, lovely people and affordable. Sometimes the organisation is a little difficult, but patience is the key to success :)

What was your daily life like where you were? (e.g. living, shopping, leisure, inclusion)

As mentioned, I lived in a long-stay hotel. I got up around 8am, had breakfast, sometimes at home, sometimes in the coffee around the corner (Coffee and sandwich for 2,50€). I went to Uni, mostly around 10am and finished around 3 pm. When I came home, my sailor friend cooked for me or invited me to a restaurant around the corner. Often, I took the bus to Caparica and went surfing (also a great way to meet nice people). In the evening I went to one of the many bars in Lisbon. Sometimes I stayed in my district and went dancing in one of the alternative places, sometimes I stayed at a beach bar and sometimes I visited my friend Miguel from the Belgian bar around the corner. Also, I spent many evenings with my house mates in the garden or living room or went outside for some nice late dinner in the streets of Alfama.

How did you manage with the money?

Lisbon is quite cheap. You will have to pay rent (between 250 to 500 euros), the ticket for public transport (40 euros), food (UberEats is quite cheap and a nice meal in a restaurant is about 8 euros), and booze (beer about 1,50, wine 2,50 euros in a bar). The supermarkets (Lidl, Auchan, Aldi, etc. are a little cheaper than in Germany.) It is absolutely possible to finance a good life in Lisbon with 750 euros. I spent a little more, taking into account that my accommodation was a little more expensive and I enjoyed the bar-culture :)

Is there anything else you would like to share? (e.g. anecdotes, criticism, etc.)

If you enter a new place, keep your mind open and you will have an amazing experience, meet friends for life, learn a lot about yourself and develop. Don't forget to do what you love. Sometimes, it is ok to not attend classes and go surfing or on a hike instead. These are in most of the cases the more valuable experiences in life.

3. Photos

Finally, you can upload photos here, which visualize/imagine your stay abroad well. If necessary, add a description. The following reflection questions can help you choose an appropriate photo:

- Does the photo possibly reinforce prejudices or stereotypes about the country?
- Do you have the consensual consent of the persons depicted in the photos?
- "A picture is worth a thousand words!" What does your picture say about the country and your semester abroad?

EINVERSTÄNDNISERKLÄRUNG:

Hiermit erkläre ich, dass Rechte Dritter an dem/den unten näher bezeichneten Foto/s nicht bestehen und ich der EUF die Nutzung dieses/dieser Fotos gestatte

Yes ☒ No ☐

By October, we decided to leave Lisbon over the weekends. Within one hour by bus, you will reach the most beautiful beaches south of the city, where you can rent a house for 60 euros a night (10 euros each). Getting up in the morning and starting the day surfing was one of the most beautiful experiences I had.



There are many random encounters, wherever you go.

This guy, Antonio, also lived at my place. A true sailor, who made my life way easier. Coming home from Uni and having Gin Tonic? Sure!

Going out for lunch/ dinner whenever we were too lazy to cook? Sure.

And this guy makes the best Tortillas for sure!

The picture was taken on Christmas, 24th of December. What a special Christmas it was!

Many thanks for your assistance!