

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 and what you need to know. 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

Study program at EUF

European Cultures and Society

Subject combination (if BABW)

Klicken oder tippen Sie hier, um Text einzugeben.

Host country

Portugal

Host university

University of Porto

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

Fall Semester 2021/2022

2. Your Experience Abroad

At this point you can share the experience you made abroad. Sometimes it is not so easy to report on such experiences in such a compressed way. We have therefore prepared some 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 have been in contact with some people that have done the semester abroad in Portugal, as well and I also joined some meetings organised by my university.

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

I joined some international groups online and I took part of some events for Erasmus students.

Did you learn the local language, respectively how important did you think it was for your stay?

I did not learn Portuguese, but I do understand more than before. Learning the local language is very important and it makes easier to integrate into the society, so it is definetl a plus if students manage to learn it.

I spent most of the time with other international students and we mostly spoke in English.

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?

The courses offered at the partner university were very interesting; however, most of them were taught in Portuguese, so that was quite difficult to interact during the classes.

What intercultural encounters/competencies shaped your stay?

Getting to know people for other countries, discovering new cultures.

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

I must say that my expectations reflected the reality. I know many people who have been to Portugal before me and they have told me a lot about its culture.

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

I tried to create a routine: most of my classes were in the morning, after university I often went to the gym I met some friends in the city center. During the week-end, together with my friends we organized trips to visit other cities to get to know more about Portugal. During the exams period I used to spend the whole day at home studying, which was not stressful as I was lucky enough to find a nice house with fantastic roommates, which made the stay very pleasant.

EXPERIENCE REPORT ON SEMESTER ABROAD

What are the unique or special issues in the host country and what were the opportunities for engaging with these issues?

In some circumstances organization is very bad; even in the university it was sometimes necessary to wait a long time to receive some answers. My advice is to try to talk to people you know (e.g. students, or local friends) who can give you some advices on how to act.

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

Klicken oder tippen Sie hier, um Text einzugeben.

3. Photos

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

- 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?



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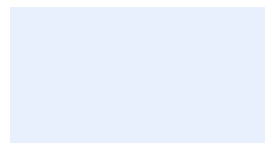
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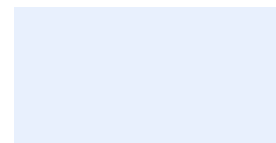
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Many thanks for your support!