

Technology, Policy and Management

in Lisbon

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STUDY
ABROAD

Studying abroad, in Lisbon

"Why studying in Lisbon?", many friends asked me before and after my 5 months stay in Lisbon. **After visiting Lisbon a year before, I realized that I would like to experience this place for a longer period. The country, the city itself, the people, the culture and the climate all seemed right to me.**

After finishing my BSc TPM, I saw the opportunity to go to Lisbon and study there at Instituto Superior Técnico (IST). This university is a very known university within Portugal, but also outside (MIT for example also offers an intensive exchange program for its students). Finally, the quality of the university and education methods were my prior reason to study there. After following different courses at the faculty of Industrial Engineering and Management (which, lucky for me, were all being taught in English), I can say that I really



enjoyed studying at IST. The teachers were always helpful and working together with Portuguese students, as well as with other exchange students, was a very pleasant and broadening experience. Also, spending lunch breaks together, close to the beach, or getting to know their lives and study careers a bit more was very pleasant.

Free time in and around Lisbon

As said before, I didn't speak to anyone who went to Lisbon and was negative about the people or the ambiance. Except for studying abroad, you get the great opportunity to get to know a country and its culture so much more than when just spending a week vacation there.

Lisbon itself is a beautiful city with many nice locations. From dozens of Miradouros (sightseeing spots with astonishing views over the city), to neighborhoods such as Castelo (located around the ancient Castle of São Jorge) and Bairro Alto (where thousands of people gather almost every night to have a drink and a chat together in the narrow streets).

Because of the warm Mediterranean climate, going during an afternoon to one of the surrounding beaches, or the possibility to take surfing lessons, is really advisable. Or just relaxing with some new friends at a Miradouro, is priceless.

Around Lisbon, I've visited many places that I can advise to anyone who comes to Lisbon. A few are Sintra (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), Cabo de Roca (the westernmost point of mainland Europe), or a bit further away, Coimbra (hosts one of the oldest universities of Europe) and Oporto.



Experiences

Though living on your own in a student residence in Delft can be a great experience to "grow up", living abroad is an even greater experience. Being dropped in a place where you don't know anybody can be confronting. But as soon as you meet the first other exchange students from everywhere around the world, you realize that you're not the only one there. This creates a very easy and nice way of bonding with new people, who will make your stay abroad a great experience. After spending a longer time abroad, they will become true friends to you and in my case, I also found my girlfriend there.

The point is, when thinking about the option to study abroad... Just do it! It's an experience you will talk about for many more years (and get your friends annoyed with all your fantastic stories from that period). It will add much value to your life experience, as well as to your student career.

Tips & Tricks

- **Prices of renting a car in Portugal are reasonable.** It gives you a great opportunity and flexibility to travel around with some friends and see more of the country
- **Lunch is in Portugal often a hot dish.** The university cafeteria's offer for a very modest price (around €2,50) a decent and complete meal
- **Look also at other faculties for courses:** this gives you the great opportunity to get to know other teachers, faculties and meet new people (local and foreign students)
- **Erasmus Lisboa and ESN Lisboa** are two associations that offer many activities for foreign students, such as organized weekend trips and parties.
- **Facebook is by far the most used medium** by exchange students to hear about events, to meet people and to share photos and stories



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