

Universidade Portucalense, Portugal
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Fall semester of 2020 I spent in Universidade Portucalense, Portugal as an Erasmus exchange student. Therefore, in this report I will write about my experience. This report will be divided into two sections: preparation for my mobility and my academic experience.

Documents. I had to prepare a Learning Agreement which stated all of the courses that I will take following semester. It took some time to get a response from all of the parties. After the Learning Agreement and other documents were signed and delivered, the Receiving Coordinator of Universidade Portucalense arranged a virtual meeting with all of the incoming students in July. This meeting was very helpful because the Coordinator informed us about all of the deadlines, missing documents we should prepare and we could ask her questions directly.

Accommodation. Moreover, I had to search for my own accommodation. To be honest, it was pretty stressful because I didn't know where to look for it and had to make sure that it fits my budget. During our virtual meeting with Receiving Coordinator, she informed us to be aware of scams while searching for accommodation. In the end, I was able to find student residence to stay in. The residence I stayed in had other international students, including other Erasmus exchange students from Universidade Portucalense. Of course, it would have been more comfortable if the host university provided dormitories but I was lucky to find an awesome residency.

Studies. I took 5 courses in total at Universidade Portucalense. To be honest, I was quite disappointed because of miscommunication. From the start I was sure that my classes would be taught in English and during virtual meeting in the summer they assured us about that. When I arrived in Portugal and lectures started I learned that none of my classes will be held in English. Therefore, I had to talk with lecturers directly about my evaluation, work I have to do and arrange meetings every week or so. It made everything very stressful because I had to learn everything by myself. I had only one professor who taught me 2 subjects (Database Technologies and Project Management) and who was nice enough to teach half in Portuguese and half in English, so I had to attend only his face-to-face lectures with other students. Some of the work I was given were pretty confusing because I could tell that lecturers translated them from Portuguese to English using some online translator and sometimes sentences didn't make sense. Therefore, I had to put extra effort into understanding my assignments. In conclusion, I enjoyed the subjects I was learning but it would have been even better if I could have attended classes with other university students!

