IT University Travel Report

Dear Student, this is a template – the aim is to inspire other students who may wish to follow in your footsteps. You are free to give your report the shape you want and to go beyond the questions. You are also very welcome to include pictures and contact information – but you need not.

Note that by filling in and sending the report you automatically consent to publishing it on ITU student.

Host university: NOVA IMS Lisbon

Study Programme at IT University: GBI

Exchange agreement or Free mover: Exchange Agreement

Courses studied abroad:

1. **Market Research**

2. **Legal, Social, Ethical Aspects of Artificial Intelligence**

3. **Hardware and Software of IT**

4. **Business Strategy & Digital Transformation**

5. **Data Analysis**

6. **Data Preprocessing**

Period studying abroad: semester (autumn/spring)____Autumn_____year _____2023/2024__

If you wish to give advice to other students regarding your travels, please state your contact info here:
**_____vkor@itu.dk_____
_____**

Your stay abroad

What was it like to study at the university (including choice of courses, academic level, social life at campus)?

University life in Lisbon was a good experience and something I would highly recommend. The University campus at NOVA IMS Campolide is a beautiful, older campus with many different auditoriums, classrooms, and student facilities (library, study facilities, courtyards, cantine, etc.). The academic level in the more technical classes, such as "Data Analysis" and "Hardware Software" of IT is at a decent level, whereas the classes requiring more critical thinking, interactivity, and discussion (Business Strategy, Market research, Legal, Social, Ethical Aspects of Artificial Intelligence) is lower

than at ITU. Overall, expect a lower level than Denmark. That being said, the workload intensifies at the end of the semester, as all courses will both have a project and a written exam.

The professors and teaching assistants are usually sweet, competent, and great at keeping it in English. The course catalog is broad and one can reach many different corners of the IT world, since we got to "shop around" on courses on all three degrees, as long as these got approved by SAP. I personally really enjoyed both "Data Analysis" and "Data Preprocessing", which together offer GBI students a great in-depth introduction to the world of data analysis. Despite only being a 2 ECTS course, "Legal, Social, and Ethical Aspects of AI" is another interesting course I would recommend. Courses such as "Market Research" and "Business Strategy and Digital Transformation" are all alright and somewhat interesting, but slightly repetitive to former GBI classes. One thing I will tell all future NOVA Erasmus Students: stay away from the course "Hardware and Software of IT", as this course is poorly taught, structured, and overall way too time-consuming for being a 6 ECTS class.

What was your initial motivation for going abroad and did your stay meet your expectations?

I wanted to try living abroad for half a year to see how this would suit me. Portugal seemed like a great opportunity and did not disappoint. The country is stunningly beautiful, and the Portuguese are welcoming, kind, and interesting.

Please describe what you got out of your stay, both personally and academically, and how do you expect it to contribute to your further studies?

I gained a lot, both personally and academically, from my stay in Lisbon. The city is easily livable and extremely beautiful and there are lots of things to do - both in and around the city. Being able to explore Portugal, both before settling in Lisbon, but also during the semester was amazing. I would recommend doing weekend trips around the country – both to islands (Madeira + Azores) and on the mainland (Nazaré, Porto, Ericiera, Geres National Park, Cascais, Douro Valley, and many more!). These trips made the semester very special.

Academically, it was very useful for me to gain insights into the data analytical world. This supplemented my current academic profile well and turned out to be something I enjoyed. The very broad academic catalogue gave me an understanding of different aspects of information technology I had not previously explored.

Arranging your stay

Please give a short description of the process of arranging your stay:

SAP will help you out a lot, especially before the semester. Reaching out to the Erasmus coordinator at NOVA was also very helpful. After having booked my apartment, there were still a ton of practicalities that needed to be fixed (address, insurance, registration etc.) so get ahead of the deadlines.

What resources did you find helpful in planning your stay and which people did you use (if any)?

Previous erasmus students, NOVA's website (different guides), Erasmus Coordinator at NOVA, SAP, Borger.dk, and tons of online research.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

I booked an apartment through www.spotahome.com, which I can only recommend using. They work as an equivalent "middle-man" to Airbnb, just focusing more on long-term stays. Finding a neighborhood to live in is always difficult and Lisbon is not the cheapest in terms of accommodation. Expect to pay at least 600 euros/month for as little as an 8m2 room. I can recommend the neighborhoods Arroios, Anjos, Alfama, Principe Real and Rato.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad
- Accommodation: €650/month (I lived in Arroios)
- Food/drink: 2/3 of Danish prices, sometimes even cheaper.
- Transportation: €45/month (€30 if you are below 23)
- Day/weekend/week trips: put aside as much as you can ☺

Did you apply for scholarships and would you recommend any ones in particular?
I did not apply for scholarships.

Recommendations for other students:

See my recommendations in other sections ☺