



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

Study Programme at IT University: Global Business Informatics

Exchange agreement or Free mover: Exchange agreement

Courses studied abroad:

Period studying abroad: semester (autumn/spring) Autumn year 2024/2025

If you wish to give advice to other students regarding your travels, please state your contact info here: Email: Pelle.pico@gmail.com

Your stay abroad

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

At Nova IMS I had the courses: Data analysis, Data preprocessing, Market Research, Cyber security, Business management, Business strategy & digital transformation, and Personal development II.

I would say the overall level of the courses is lower than at ITU and does not require as much energy as the ones at home. The teaching can feel almost high school like at times, with the teachers taking attendance in some classes, and just the general vibes that are around the classes.

The general level is lower, however there are some classes that require some extra attention. The course 'Data Analysis' is super insightful and interesting, however you do not need to concentrate and listen thoroughly, as it is quite fast paced and you do not want to miss anything.

In some courses there are "midterms", and in some courses you do need a passing grade, however in others the grade does not matter for Erasmus students.

Regarding the social life, I would say that the international students stick together in groups and the Portuguese students stick together in groups. It is not a large school, so at my stay there was only around 40 international students. But I would advise you to join as many social activities on campus and off campus to meet new people and to have an interesting and insightful stay. People are generally super sweet and open

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

My initial motivation was to try to live in a foreign country for an extended period and to make international friends.

It was so nice to try to live in another country besides Denmark, as I have never done that before. It was so interesting to try to immerse myself in their culture and attempt to learn their language.

I really had a great stay, however I did not make as many "great" international friends as I had hoped, as the university is quite small there are only a limited amount of people you can actually meet. I would therefore strongly advice on joining a ton of social activities. I should have been better at doing that

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?

From this experience I learned to be more open and just "go with the flow" as everything does not have to be so strict, especially when living in another country. Academically I took courses that weren't offered at ITU. I gained a great insight into working with data, which I found extremely interesting but also a bit challenging. All this has contributed to me finding the master's degree that I would like to pursue. Additionally it has also motivated me to do longer stays abroad, and try to live in another country.

Arranging your stay

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

First, I looked at Nova's website to find all the courses that I would like to take, then I wrote my online learning agreement and submitted it. It can be quite time consuming as it is a larger process, however, it is doable.

Whilst all my courses were getting approved, I started looking for housing also. I did this around 5-6 months before my stay started. It took some time, and I browsed the web and social media but in the end found a student housing experience which I rented my room through (HousingAnywhere)

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

Looking back, I would definitely advice on joining Facebook groups. Here you can find such nice housing at affordable pricing, however, just be aware of scams. Looking back, I would have found my place through Facebook. You can definitely also find housing on professional housing websites where you definitely won't be scammed whatsoever, however it will also be pricier.

I used HousingAnywhere, where I found my room that contained weekly room cleaning, changing of bed linens and towels within the rent.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

Just read what I wrote above. However I would also advice you on staying in these areas: Saldanha, Anjos, Rato, Principe Real, Santos, Alameda, and Picoas. However, I would stay away from Martin Moniz to stay in

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

All the living expenses are cheaper than in Denmark or Copenhagen. Groceries, drinks, restaurants, public transport are all much cheaper.

For my rent I paid 745 euros, which was definitely in the higher end, but it included a ton of perks, however you can definitely find cheaper.

For public transportation you should get a NIF (Tax Number), if you get this and you are under 24, you can get a public transportation card which allows you to travel for free within the municipality of Lisbon.

However, the Lisbon public system is very very old school and they only hand out a few NIF's a day at each financial office. I had to wait from 4 in the morning until 1 in the afternoon to finally get my

NIF. This was because they only did around 15 NIF's a day, I became number 10 in line by showing up at 4 AM, however I was in the city center which definitely made it all tougher.

I would therefore advice on getting your NIF in the outskirts of the city.

Did you apply for scholarships and would you recommend any ones in particular?

I received the grant from Lemvig Muller fonden and the ITU travel pool grant. I would greatly advise them.

Recommendations for other students:

For cafes and bars: The area of "Praca des Floras" has everything (My favorite area in the city), I would also advice on going to the bar Casa indenpendente, Collect, Musa Da bica, Boavista social club