



## **IT University Travel Report**

**Host university:** Nova IMS, Lisbon

**Study Programme at IT University:** Global Business Informatics

**Exchange agreement or Free mover:** Exchange Agreement

**Courses studied abroad:** Business Strategy & Digital Transformation, Financial Analysis & Management Control, Market Research, Geospatial Intelligence, Artificial Intelligence, Information Systems

**Period studying abroad:** autumn semester 2025/26

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

## **Your stay abroad**

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

I had some courses which resembles a lot, previous courses I had on GBI like Business Strategy & Digital Transformation, and Information Systems, which didn't require the biggest attention. Then I took some courses to try something new like Market Research (which is mostly about surveys), Geospatial Intelligence and Artificial Intelligence. Keep in mind that both Geospatial and AI can be a bit technical. In Geospatial you work in ArcGIS which can be a bit confusing at first, but we had a good teacher and course material to learn it. In AI we started very philosophical but had to learn Prolog-programming language (which is quite basic), and code some basic AI algorithms in Python. Most courses end with a final project you need to hand in, and all courses end with a sit-in exam on site. In the sit-in exams you don't have access to the internet, and some of them are also without notes. Most of them are multiple choice which makes it a bit easier. All courses require a minimum passing grade both for the final sit-in exam, and the overall points from the exam + previous assignments/presentations. But it is pretty doable.

The campus was under reconstruction while I was there, so it was a bit messy, but I think their new campus is going to look good. But it is quite small, and we more enjoyed reading and writing in cafés. I took courses for both first, second- and third-year students. It felt like quite a big age gap between those, as first year students are typically quite young, and it can feel a bit like you are in high school again, also regarding to the teaching style. There is attendance, but it varies how professors use it, and how much it matters. Most of my courses allowed for 10% increase in grade if you had attendance over a certain threshold – so you didn't need to be there. But it is a good idea for some of the courses where you are doing group work.

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

My motivations for going abroad were to experience a new culture and try to live in a foreign country. It was also interesting to try a new academic setting, which I learned a lot from, even

though sometimes it turned out to be quite different from what I am used to at ITU.

In terms of expectations, my stay definitely met them regarding the cultural experience. Living in a new city and exploring it was a highlight. Academically, it was a bit different than I expected. As mentioned, the teaching style felt younger.

**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?**

Academically, the exchange allowed me to dive into subjects I wouldn't have been able to explore at ITU. Specifically, taking technical courses like 'Geospatial Intelligence' and 'Artificial Intelligence'. Some of it I might/might not use in a professional setting again, but it was fun to learn and try out and get some hands-on practical skills to my profile.

On a personal level, living in a new culture and navigating a different university system was a great experience. I met a lot of new people, and the friendships I had during the exchange were a big part of making it successful.

## **Arranging your stay**

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

I was nominated through the partnership programme between ITU and NOVA IMS. The biggest task was selecting courses. I looked through the course catalogue on the NOVA IMS website, but it was a bit of a puzzle to get the ECTS points to add up correctly. The pre-approval process at home also took a few attempts to get right.

Even after everything was approved, I had to make changes upon arrival in Lisbon. Two of my chosen courses had overlapping schedules, and NOVA does not allow this, so I was forced to switch one of them. regarding housing, I found an apartment on HousingAnywhere.com. I was lucky to find a very good landlord, but always be careful and aware of scammers.

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

- Nova's own course catalogue
- HousingAnywhere (Housing)
- Locallista (<https://community.locallista.com/en/lisbon>) Found out about it when I was there. It can help you find different kinds of services a bit easier.

**How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?**

As mentioned I used HousingAnywhere.

## **Expenses and Financing**

**Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad**

Regarding expenses, the biggest cost is definitely housing. Lisbon's housing market is quite expensive anno 2027, so you should be aware of that. On the other side, day-to-day living is significantly cheaper than in Denmark. Groceries are affordable, and eating out at restaurants is also easier on the wallet.

If you are under 24 (I believe it is, but not 100% sure), you can travel for free if you acquire a NIF number (similar to the Danish CPR). However, this is very difficult. The website is often outdated, and getting an appointment is a hassle, you essentially need to book one month in advance or travel to a tax office outside the city to find an open slot. I didn't get one while I was there, but it is a good tip if you are organized enough to set it up early.

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

I did not apply for any scholarships.

**Recommendations for other students:**

Take a summer course if you want more free time/less exams. Some of those who I traveled to Lisbon with did this.

Take a trip top Morocco, I can most definitely recommend Marrakech. If you buy in good time, you can find cheap flights.

Take a trip to Porto as well, there are cheap FlixBusses driving between the two cities.

Generally, go outside Lisbon as well. I regret I didn't get so much out of the city. The countryside has a lot to offer as well.