



Exchange semester - spring 2016
Nova School of Business and Economics – Lisbon – Portugal

Living in Lisbon

I arrived in the city just one day before the welcome meeting at the University and the first lecture was a few days after. I would suggest to arrive a few days before the first lectures to get comfortable and manage some administrative things (for e.g. bus card, it took us a week to get the right one).

Lisbon is a great city that has almost everything. There are a lot of great restaurants and bars, taxi is not expensive at all, good shopping areas and a remarkable historic culture. Lisbon has a lot to offer and many places to explore, so don't start exploring in the end of your semester.

I shared an apartment with another student from Stockholm University that we found through a Swedish agency called Sofies Renting. We lived in an area called Santos that I thought was a great location since it is close by Cais Do Sodre, the trains to Cascais and also walking distance to Bairro Alto.

Student life

They have a buddy system at Nova and I was lucky to get a great and caring buddy. Before I arrived in Lisbon I was contacted by my buddy and were informed with upcoming activities and were even asked if I wanted to be picked up at the airport, a really nice hospitality.

There are some student unions that you can join and I was member of Erasmus Life Lisboa which had events almost every day, it is a perfect opportunity to meet new people. Have in mind that the nightlife in Lisbon starts a bit later compared to the nightlife in Stockholm, people usually arrived at the nightclubs around 3 am.

Studying in Lisbon

Nova School of Business and Economics is a top ranked school and cares a lot about its reputation. They deliver high quality education and the teachers have an excellent level of English. Be aware, the courses are much more demanding than we are used

to and you really need to put an effort and a lot of time in the studies. I recommend you to take courses that you find interesting and maybe not too challenging, it will be tougher than one can imagine.



Each course has both theoretical and practical classes, the theoretical classes are held by the professors and the practical

classes are led by the teaching assistants. The practical classes were the ones that were most important and gave me necessary knowledge. I took the following courses:

- Entrepreneurship

A great course to read as exchange students since it is well fitted for those that might enjoy some more free time because it is not so strict. The professor is very easy going and understanding. The whole course is based on the fact that you are supposed to come up with a business idea and make it work.

- International Management

This course was the one that turned out to be my favorite, both the layout of the course and the subject was great but also for the professor and teaching assistant were really helpful. If you go to Nova I would definitely suggest you taking this course, it is interesting and making you aware of the culture structures and behaviors within different cultures. During the group work we were divided in groups with different nationalities on purpose since the teacher wanted us to experience some of the challenges regarding international management.

- Global Business Environment

I actually thought this would be the most interesting course but it turned out to be a bit too serious. The teacher is an old politician that is quite formal and demands a certain standard on for example clothes when presenting in front of the class. It was a class that was easy to pass but a bit harder to get a good grade.

- Finance

If it is not mandatory for you to take this course I would recommend you not to since it is very demanding and time-consuming. I would say it not so suitable for exchange students. During this course we had a huge group work that we worked with day and night. If you are not a fan of finance or math, I would suggest you would skip this course.

Other adventures

Portugal has a lot of nice beaches to enjoy, but my favorite beach was Carcavelos since it is very easy to go there by train. If you go to Portugal for your exchange semester you should really try to surf, fun experience. We also went to Algarve in the end of the semester and found beautiful hidden beaches in Lagos. After the semester I went to the Azores for a week, I must say that might be the most breathtaking views that I have ever seen.



I had a great experience and will treasure the memories forever. Good luck during your exchange semester, you will have a blast and create memories for life!

Best regards,
Veronica Svensson