

# Erasmus 2014/2015 Instituto Superior de Comunicacao Empreserial, Portugal – Lisbon

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## **The application:**

For every study abroad it is normal, to apply in advance. The application process depends on the university, where you want to go. The application for the Instituto Superior de Comunicacao Empreserial is very easy. You have to write a curriculum vitae, Erasmus+ application and a letter of intent in English. Moreover you will find possible courses on this homepage, from which you can choose for your Learning Agreement. All in all I recommend to start early, because also when it seemed to be easy, there are always possible problems, which could appear.

## **House-hunting:**

There are many possible ways of house-hunting in Lisbon. Myself, I found my room with the help of special office that helps Erasmus students to find apartments to live. On Facebook there are a lot of public groups, for example: “Erasmus Life Lisboa”, “Erasmus In-Lisboa” or “Erasmus students in Lisboa”. In these groups a lot of people write down, when a room or a flat is free. I shared my apartments with two Lithuanian guys and was really happy with my decision, because if you see a room just on photos, you can't be sure that it looks the same in real. Some people even took some offers from their Universities. Before the semester starts, the international office sends some flat offers to the international students. This can be very helpful, because it is very trustful. Another option is, to come to Lisbon without having any flat or room and search then there for a room. And maybe you get to know other Erasmus people, which are also still looking for some place. Probably the question will arise, which district should I choose for living. As for me I've chosen the city center because of the good communication (3 of 4 metro lines in 5-minute walk, and bus stops from where you can reach every point of the city you want as well) and also because my university was in 25-minute walk from the center.

## **Studies at the Instituto Superior de Comunicacao Empreserial:**

Instituto Superior de Comunicacao Empreserial is separated in different faculties. It is possible to study Business Communication or Marketing Management. The different faculties are situated in the same place in Lisbon, because the university is not that big. Like I wrote before you can choose your courses from the internet page. If you will arrive there, probably the courses are changed. But there are other good options every semester. The first two weeks it is possible to visit all the courses and then to decide and change the Learning Agreement. I liked a lot that you can choose courses from every field. Specially for me it was important, because for my studies “Management” weren't so many courses available and to get all the points, I had to take other courses and change 4 subjects. So now I have also knowledge in TV and Journalism. In the courses are sometimes just Erasmus students, sometimes native students. I didn't have so much contact to Russian-speaking students because there were a very few of them in Lisbon, but on contrast – there were not less than 3000 polish students. The English of the teachers is maybe not the best, but I think you can't expect from non-

English speakers to speak perfect English. All in all the courses weren't so hard. Often you had to hold a presentation during the semester and write a final exam at the end. In mostly every course it is obligatory to be present and you are allowed to miss the course two or three times. The support of the university in Lisbon firstly wasn't very good, but during the time it was getting better and better, and now I'm even in contact with the Erasmus office of university where I was and they are helping me to find a summer practice in Lisbon. If there are any problems, you can go to Miss Katherina, which is working in the international office. For example she can help with house hunting or help you with all the paper stuff (Learning Agreement and so on).

### **Erasmus-Life in Lisbon:**

It was for me the first time being in Lisbon and in Portugal at all. But I felt directly in love with city. It is really amazing walking through the streets and everywhere you have something to see. Among other things Marquês de Pombal, the main square in Lisbon has the special charm. Of course there are also some negative aspects, which you can recognize during the time, like the oppositions between rich or poor. The average salary amount to 750 Euro per month. For me the food prices were quiet the same like in Poland but the fashion was totally different. All over the Lisbon there are plenty of shops. At every corner are also 24-hours shops, where you can buy necessary stuff for the worst case (these they are a little bit more expensive). For shopping are the many shopping malls ("Amoreira", "Armazens do Chiado", "Colombo" or "Atrium Saldanha"). There are also a lot of Second-hand stores and China-shops which are sometimes hided in small streets. The nightlife is cheaper than in Poland and this is a very important fact, because if u are Erasmus student you will go out a lot. In Lisbon there are so many options to go out. There are plenty of bars and clubs situated in the Bairro Alto district. Also for dancing Lisbon has many places. On the one hand you can visit big clubs like "Main" and "Lust", on the other hand you can find many places like "Academico" which are smaller but not worse. Lisbon students and organizations organized also a lot of stuff for the international students, for example "The Welcome Day", "Sightseeing tour", "Market Day", "Pub tour", "Boat Party" or the "Farewell party". These events made the Erasmus life much nicer and you got to know the other Erasmus students better. But also if there were no event, Lisbon student made a lot of stuff with us.

### **My conclusion:**

I will never regret about this semester. I can say now at the end, that Lisbon was the best choice I could have made. Lisbon has a perfect size, not that big and not that small. But not just the city, also the people from my Erasmus+ group and people at all were amazing. It is a very big chance to get to know people from a lot of different countries from all over the world, like Finland, Lithuania, Spain, France, Romania, Italy, USA, Hungary and India and make friends for a life. A special thanks to all the people, who made this possible!



