2019Relazione di fine scambio

Scuola del Design

Istruzioni

Indicare di seguito tutte le informazioni che possano essere utili ad altri studenti che parteciperanno a uno scambio. Preferibilmente in lingua inglese, lunghezza min. 2500 parole + possibili immagini, file di max. dimensione 2 MB in formato PDF. Questo documento sarà pubblicato nel sito web della Scuola.

Informazioni generiche

Anno Accademico di Scambio:	2019/2020	Nome della Sede in scambio:	FAUL
Cognome e Nome:	Strianese Gianna Maria	Stato:	Portogallo
Matricola:	915236	Codice Sede:	P LISBOA109
Corso di Studio:	MdL in Interior and Spatial Design	Tipo di scambio: (Semplice o Doppia Laurea)	Semplice
Anno di Corso:	2°	Semestre di Scambio:	2°
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Racconta la tua esperienza di scambio:

My Erasmus experience in Lisbon took place in one of the most difficult and complicated historical moments of the XXI century: the outbreak of the pandemic has destroyed people lives and future plans, including the abrupt interruption of exchange programmes that thousands of students were dreaming about since a long time. Some students decided to stay in the host countries, living their quarantine there; many others were convinced to take special flights and go back to Italy, as I did. I arrived in Lisbon on the 7th of February and I left only a few weeks later, on the 23rd of March. I felt very unlucky in that moment and I lived the whole quarantine in Naples, my hometown, far from my new home in Milan and strongly dreaming about going back to Portugal. As a matter of fact, as the situation got better, the country borders were opened and I immediately bought a flight to return to Lisbon. Once there, I spent one month and a half living every day as much as I could: I wanted to feel that my Erasmus was still safe, and I did it.

Apart from the global emergency consequences, I consider this experience one of the best of my life: I met lots of amazing people that I hope will be part of my life forever and I will never thank them enough for the moments they gave me.

Finding a place to stay wasn't too difficult thanks to the suggestions of a friend that was already there in Erasmus since September. I got a room through an agency

called Houze students, that rents apartments in many areas of Lisbon only to university students. I stayed in Alameda, a super cool city neighborhood full of young people, characterized by a long park divided into two green strips: one ends with the Instituto Tecnico, the other with a big fountain called Fonte Luminosa. To whom is intentioned to spend their Erasmus experience in Lisbon, I sincerely suggest this area : it is well connected to the best city spots through the subway (Alameda stop – green line and red line) and many buses pass from there. If you are going to attend the FAUL (Faculdade de arquitectura, Universidade de Lisboa) as I did, you will need to take two buses that will take approximately 40 mins to get to the Campus in Ajuda, but in my opinion it is worth it, considering the quality of everyday life that Alameda offers. The first picture on the first page shows the amazing view from my bedroom, towards the Saint George Castle, well visible from any point of the city.

The Faculdade de Arquitectura in Ajuda is quite small if compared to the Politecnico di Milano complex. The classrooms are smaller and not so well organized and many of them are placed all together in a big space, using panels instead of walls to separate each class from the other. Above this, the atmosphere is very nice: you can feel positivity and tranquillity during the lessons thanks to the professors, the majority of which is gentle and available if you need any kind of help. It's useless to say that the best moment of the day was the break after lunch, sunbathing and drinking a cold *imperial* (small glass of beer) outside the university canteen. Unfortunately, at the beginning of march the university was closed and we had to wait a couple of weeks to have all the online courses available. For obvious reasons, the quality of the course in presence was much higher, but considering the exceptional situation, the university was sufficiently able to guarantee the lessons continuity to its students.
Although in Politecnico I was at my second year of the Master Degreein Interior and Spatial design, I couldn't attend the corresponding year at the host university because of the study plan incompatibility. For this reason, I could choose any course I was interested in. I decided to attend three classes: *Ciclo de Cinema na Faculdade de Arquitectura*, *Conservação, restauração e reabilitação* and *Desenho na Cidade*. All three of them started well, but all of them had their strength in dynamic activities like debating and physically discovering city places. When the pandemic forced the universities to close and everyone to stay at home in front a computer, the previous expectations were disappointed. Only the first one, despite the online courses limitations, has proved to be one of the most interesting and innovative courses I've ever been in since I started my career in design. The course consisted in watching documentaries about architecture, focused each time on a different topic, and then discussing about it, exchanging ideas and opinions with the professor. To me it was very useful and it made me overcome the fear of sharing my t houghts, scared of been judged for having said something wrong or different from the common opinion.
About Lisbon, I could talk about it for pages: it is one of the best European cities I have ever been. I loved it from the first sight, starting from the urban setting itself, to its culture and language. Life there is really easy: transports works quite good, everyday life is not expensive and the atmosphere all around is super relaxed. Apart from the restrictions that the pandemic took with it, the city offers a huge variety of activities to do during all the year and you will never get bored of it. It wasn't my first choice for the exchange but after all, If I could go back, I would choose it as first again and again, being sure it would never disappoint me.
To conclude, although I lived it for half of the time it was meant to be, Lisbon gave me a lot and all the experiences I lived will stay in my heart and mind forever.

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