Relazione 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:	2020	Nome della Sede in scambio:	IADE - universidade europeia
Cognome e Nome:	Campanelli Federica	Stato:	Portogallo
Matricola:	915100	Codice Sede:	
Corso di Studio:	Design della comunicazione (magistrale)	Tipo di scambio:	Semplice
Anno di Corso:	2°	Semestre di Scambio:	2°
Email:	federica.campanelli@mail.polimi.it	Docente Promotore:	Marcello Galbiati

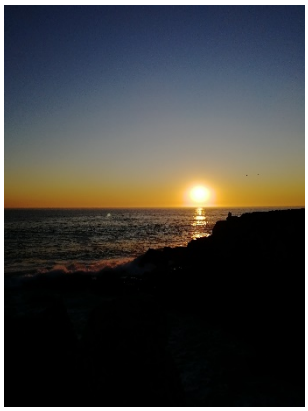
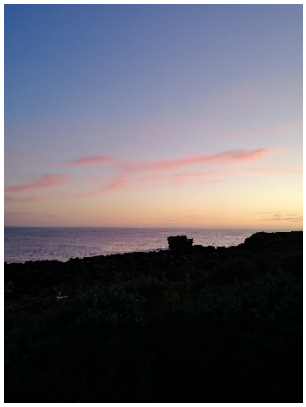
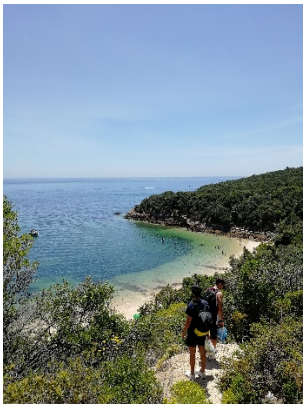
Racconta la tua esperienza di scambio:

When I finally arrived in Lisbon on February 4, 2020 and I found myself in front of a bright sun, the temperature that touched 30 degrees and the university that gave beach towels as a welcome gift, I thought this Erasmus would be perfect. But, alas, I hadn't come to terms with the fate that, with its somewhat sadistic irony, decided to spread a global pandemic exactly in those months in which we, lucky students, were leaving for this fantastic experience.
But, for better or for worse, we actually have been lucky, either because at the time of choosing the Erasmus destination, Spain was not on the list or because Portugal was able to take precautionary measures quite quickly, I certainly can't complain and I am happy today to be able to make fun of this experience that was certainly strange but even stronger than an ordinary Erasmus.
The month of February was surely the most normal: the welcome week at the university, the meetings with other students, the lessons, the first visits at the most characteristic places of Lisbon and the cheap drinks in Bairro Alto; everything was going pretty well but already during the mid-March the closure of all schools and universities was officially decreed and the new regulations led also to the closure of clubs, restaurants and a ban on gatherings.
I know that this kind of feeling was probably shared throughout Italy too but seeing Lisbon completely empty, especially after hearing so many people saying how extremely lively and bright it usually is, it made me feel really depressed. I admit it, I got very discouraged and several times I thought about returning back to Italy, especially because it was really difficult to understand how the situation would evolved during those months. In fact, the quarantine was not mandatory or forcedly imposed like in Italy, so the prevention measures were based exclusively on people's civic sense, which is a thing that, fortunately, Portuguese people always had.
Now, if I think about that moment, I'm glad that I didn't give up because at the end, staying in Lisbon during covid gave me the opportunity to see how amazing portuguese people are and I had the chance to live my erasmus experience till the very end.

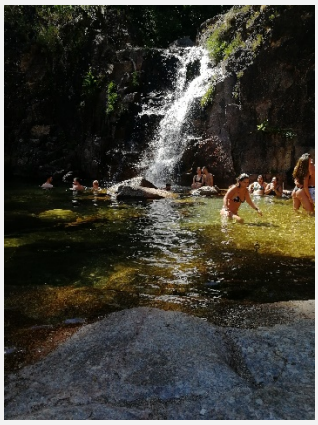
Solidarity, indeed, was never lacking, for example, every time I needed help with some product at the supermarket I could always count on someone willing to help out, especially the middle-aged Portuguese ladies, always on the front line to help a nephew of the world.
At the beginning of the online lessons it was nice to see how, despite the distance, a relationship of dialogue was easily established between students and professors. In fact, both the teachers and the IADE erasmus exchange department did everything to guarantee us a good experience and a good teaching as far as possible in those conditions. Most of the professors were very understanding by postponing the delivery of the projects and by listening to our problems. The whole Erasmus department was fundamental too, through email they periodically asked us news about our health status and our progress in studies as well as Professor Galbiati who's always been really close to us.

Speaking about studies, the courses that I've chosen at IADE have been all quite satisfactory. I liked their practical and concrete approach, really useful for those like me, who always feel the need to improve some technical gaps regarding software and programs. In fact at Polytechnic, these kind of skills are often taken for granted and most of the time the student is left alone to learn them; at IADE instead, you have the chance to ask for extremely precise and professional advice directly from professors that work also in communication agencies or as freelencers.
During the first two weeks at IADE I found myself changing some of the courses that I inicially add in the learning agreement due to time overlap so at the beginning I recommend to follow as much courses as you like and then rearrange the learning agreement accordingly. Unfortunately there is no precise description of the courses so at the beginning you inevitably go a bit blindly, but despite this, I managed to validate all of them with no problems according to the master's communication design program. Specifically I'm talking about: Advertising design project, Animation, Graphic Production and Digital Interfaces. Among the four courses mentioned I do not recommend only Digital Interfaces in which the professor asked us an excessive amount of work for only 3 ects. Every teaching was delivered in English except Advertising held entirely in Portuguese but Professor Rodrigo with his fantastic Brazilian Portuguese was always easily understandable. It was really interesting also to see how other erasmus students used to work and what abilities and skills they had, a relationship of mutual support and trust has been established between us, I've really learned a lot from them especially how to stand still in my position when students' rights are not respected or when the amount of work requested becomes excessive. During the first months in quarantine a kind of student union had been set up between us in order to ask professors to rearrange the schedule of their lessons and to lower the workload, it was quite fun.

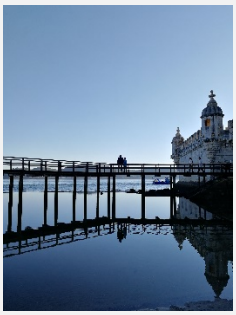
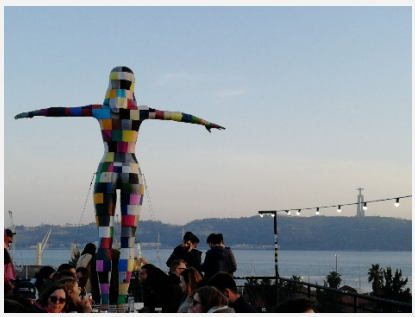
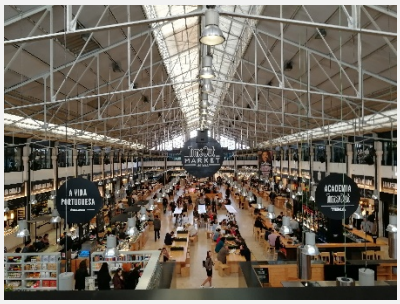
For the rest, Lisbon is really an amazing place. Even in this strange situation, I've met lots of different people from different countries and I had the chance to travel around Portugal with some of them. I honestly forgot how easy it was to make friends and how supportive can be having someone to talk with during harsh times, at the end it was a good choice not coming back to Italy. Infact, together we've been to some of the most famous beaches around Lisbon, it was a bit difficult at first to get used to the cold ocean currents especially for one like me who grew up in that hot puddle of the Adriatic sea, but after some times it started to become easier and refreshing, especially during the hottest months, unfortunately I wasn't able to try some surf lessons.

We've visited also cities like Sintra, Aveeiro and Porto, each one of them with their own peculiarity and their culinary specialty (for example in Porto we tried the famous and not really healthy francesinha, very yummy). There's also a beautiful natural park in the north of Portugal called Peneda-Gerês which is really worth visiting. On the south instead it's popular the Algarve, full of pristine beaches and astonishing caves like the Benagil one.



Travelling around Portugal is pretty simple because with just 30 euros per day it's possible to rent a car. Also in Lisbon you can move easily around the city with the Viva Viagem, a rechargeable card that you can take it in any metrostation point for only 0,50 cent or with transportation services like Uber and Bolt, very cheap compared to prices in Milan. Visiting all this places in Portugal was definitely amazing but, to all the people that are going to visit this beautiful country, I really suggest to experience as much as possible also the city of Lisbon itself, I hope that things will go better for next erasmus students so they can fully enjoy it. Every corner of Lisbon is different and awaits to be discovered: you can wandering among old streets, new buildings and suddenly come across miradouros which are the viewpoints where people can admire all the city from above. You can stop to Belem and relax in front of the river while eating one famous pastél de nata, the typical portuguese pastry or you can enjoy the creative side of Lisbon in places like LX Factory and Village Underground.

In Lisbon I finally could take a sigh of relief because after two intense years in Milan, at least for six months, I could let go of the hectic life that I used to have in Italy and return to breathe some fresh and healthy air full of creativity and good vibes. Obrigada por tudo, Lisboa.

Firma: Fedra Campanelli

Data: 30/08/2020