

Experience report

Fist and last name: Inês Marques Mano Ivo Peres
Study program: Digital Arts and Multimedia
Bachelor or Master: Bachelor
Host institution, country: ESAD Matosinhos, Portugal
Period: 26.10.20 – 21.07.21

Declaration of consent to the publication of the report

- I agree that the present report will be linked on the website of the ERASMUS office, so that future prospective customers can get first-hand information about my experiences at the university location abroad.
- I agree that my e-mail address will be available to prospective students who would like to get first-hand information about my experience at the university abroad, upon request to the Erasmus office.
- I agree that my **full name** / only **my first name** can be found in the published report.

Formalities:

(Unclear what this refers to, so I am only guessing)

In preparation to applying for an Erasmus experience I thought my university was adequately prepared. I would have preferred clearer information on what universities I have as partner opportunities when wanting to do an Erasmus abroad regarding to their course. Because whilst the SRH boasts a wide variety when doing the introduction presentation on how to do a semester abroad, it doesn't state that some courses like mine only have two options (now with ESAD it will be three). This can be a bit misleading. Other than this minor question, I am grateful that the international office was able to help me fulfil my dream of doing an exchange.

Motivation and preparation for mobility:

I wanted to study abroad, particularly in Portugal for two main reasons: 1) Reconnect with my parental roots, see if I recognised myself in any of them and 2) study how the film sector was working because I hope to work in it in the future. To prepare I made sure to reach out early with the international office and see what was needed so I could deal with the paperwork as soon as possible. In the end, the university I went to was not the one I had in mind in the beginning, but I am just glad to have gotten the opportunity and for DAB to reach out to me and inform me that there was a university in Portugal that I could apply for.

Start of mobility:

I arrived in Porto a bit earlier than my classes started in Matosinhos and the reason I lived in Porto was because the two cities are so close to each other that in terms of rent it did not

make much of a difference. Arriving earlier gave me a chance to walk around by myself and get used to my new place. It was peak pandemic curfew time, so the city was mostly empty but even with all the obstacles, ESAD and its international officers were still able to make a small event for the Erasmus students to become acquainted and be introduced to the university grounds. It was also a nice way to get the international students to meet each other before the start of classes and have them all be assigned to their specific classes.

During the mobility:

During the mobility there were no events organised, but I think this has more to do with the situation the country found itself in than the lack of participation from the international office. In my course one of my teachers was one of the Erasmus representatives and she was always very friendly and helpful when I had questions or doubts. I was very lucky with my teachers and classmates. I had another Erasmus person from Poland and my colleagues were all very welcoming, even if we didn't have all the classes together. It was a nice mix between international and national which was great because often I was worried about my level of Portuguese. The modules all made sense to the course I was in, and I ended up being impressed how readily the university handled the constant shift from presential classes to online classes depending on the situation in the Porto region at the time. There wasn't any part during my mobility that I felt I was being treated differently to the rest of my classmates.

What have I learned and what am I taking with me from this time?:

I have definitely learnt to appreciate my previous travel experiences abroad more – being in the minority in a country that isn't your own makes you more open-minded and willing to try new things because you have to almost. I learnt to appreciate my German side and recognise that although I personally struggle with identifying with my Portuguese roots, that doesn't make me any less than I am. I take back with me the feeling that I am my own person no matter what my nationality is and that being unconventional isn't always a bad thing. I became more comfortable with admitting that I don't always know things for sure and therefore am more willing to try new things now. Academically, I also take the knowledge that every country deal with its own film sector differently and have different priorities.

Green ERASMUS – How is the topic of the environment treated at the host institution & in the host country?

The topic of environment seemed to be very important at ESAD, especially when regarding to re-use in the fashion industry. Portugal itself deals with recycling and there are containers all over, even for oil. Whilst a bit different to Germany, you can begin to find PFAND machines too. Naturally, now because of the pandemic there was more paper waste especially in the canteen due to the cutlery having to be put in paper bags to avoid multiple people touching it but other than that it seemed good.

Impressions (photos, links etc....):

<https://esad.pt/en/news/womanart-inclusive-courts>

<https://esad.pt/en/news/welcome-erasmus-20202021>

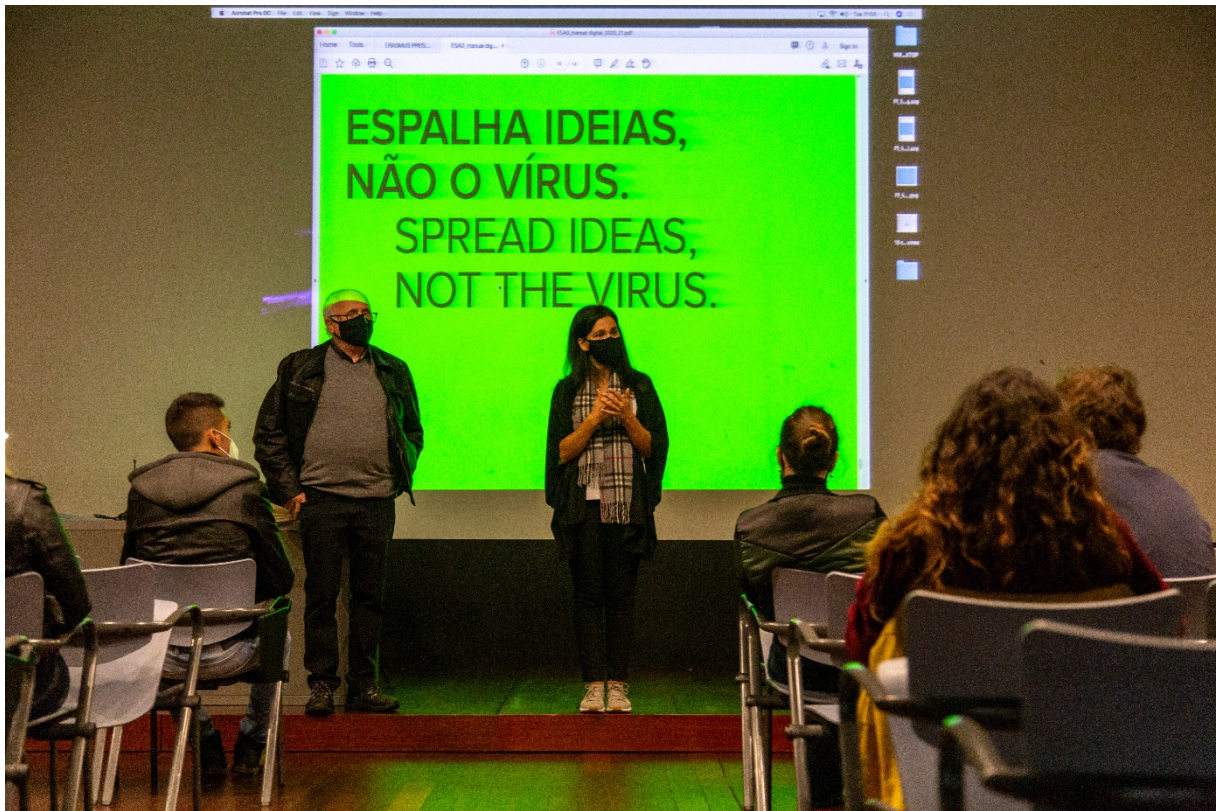


Figure 1 Erasmus Welcoming Event



Figure 2 Photo taken of all the incoming Erasmus students (myself included)



Erasmus+



Figure 3 The walk from Porto to Matosinhos by the coast. An amazing way for an Erasmus to experience both cities



Figure 4 Porto riverside, in the centre of the historical city. You will be doing a lot of walking up and downhill if you come