

Experience of Stay

The semester in National technical university of Greece started on 14th of February 2022. The day started with a tour of the campus from our program coordinator Dr. George Carallis. Then we had a brief introduction from him about the structure of the semester and other helpful information for the life in Greece. We had classes from one of the most eminent professors in the field of wind energy the next day, Dr. Speros. It was really an interesting and proud to be part of lecture. We spent our first weekend in Athens after the lectures, and we used it to explore the city and get to know the people. The Erasmus association in Athens is really strong, so we were able to take trips that was arranged by them. We had opportunity to visit Nafplio with the Erasmus group and it was fun. The trip gave many friends and helped to develop a bond with many international students from different part of the globe. The fun and parties were going on one side and we also had lectures on other side. As we were a group of 8 students, all the lectures were really Interactive. The university was really different from what I have experienced till now, It was filled with graffities everywhere and was more happening. The campus was huge, which reminded me of my university in India. The best thing about the University in Greece was the food they provided in the university restaurant. It was free, all the three meals of the day and surprisingly good quality. We also had opportunity to visit different islands during the time we spent in Greece. I found most of the islands really beautiful. The weather was not really good for the first 2 months as we were expecting a Mediterranean hot weather, but it was cold and it snowed three times. Most of us didn't pack summer cloths for the trip so we had to buy it from there. The classes were extremely application oriented and we found it extremely useful for understanding the concepts. The projects and assignments were designed in such a way that, it complemented the lectures in understanding the theory that was being taught to us. It was a great experience to develop our own wind farm from the wind measurements of a particular site. Before the easter breaks we were able to visit a wind farm with reverse hydro storage in a Greek island called Icaria. This is an island closer to turkey and it was a seven and half hour journey in a ferry. We have been there for almost 4 days and it was one of the best experiences in the whole master till now. We were able to see the working of a reverse hydro storage and also the staff there explained stuff well to us. We had one of our professor George accompanying us there and he also gave us a brief idea about the place on the boat. We also did some tutorials on the ferry, which was also nice as we made our time productive which otherwise would have been wasted. The wind farm visit was only one day and we had the rest three days for ourself. We were able to explore the island also try the local dishes and alcohol. As it was not the season, the places were not at all crowded and it was so private. We visited some beautiful beaches and because of the good weather we were able to swim in the water. We had so much fun and the beaches were among the most beautiful ones that I have seen in my life. Our professor was also do spear fishing, so he caught some octopus and

squid for us and it was his birthday that week. So, we celebrated his birthday with a grill and a nice dinner at a local restaurant. Soon after the trip we had our easter breaks and most of us visited nearby countries and Greek island. I travelled to Budapest, Istanbul and Greek islands like Santorini, milos and Mykonos with my Girlfriend. It was really nice and beautiful. After the easter breaks the classes were bit more hectic as we reached the final phase of the semester and also as the summer started the weather also got hotter. We had classes by people from industry like DNV, UL and an offshore firm. We were introduced to softwares like Wind Farmer and Bladed. We also had a class on forecasting and meteorology from a professor from Madrid. It was interesting and very interactive; we played a game with energy markets in which we were divided to a group of two and represented a particular form of energy. It was very useful in understanding the concept that we learned and also how the prices work in energy market. Our professor conducted an online meeting for students who did the Eurec wind specialisation for the past 4 years along with the current 2022 batch was organised. Around 20 people participated in the 3-hour meeting, which started with an introduction from George, and then it was the opportunity for students to introduce themselves and talk about their current jobs and experiences in the field of wind energy. During the meeting person to speak was selected based on the year of completion of Master, so that they will have more experiences to share with others about the work and challenges they faced in the field of wind energy. The person who spoke also answered all the questions that the other students had about jobs, challenges, and current opportunities. As the Alumni were spread over different working fields in the wind energy domain, the meeting was able to cover both technical and commercial sectors of wind energy. Current students used this opportunity to get insights on how to prepare their profiles to secure a job in their field of interest. The alumni also shared their experiences on finding an internship or thesis after their specialisation semester and gave tips and advice to the current students to secure internship/thesis in the industry. The meeting ended with a conclusion from Jorrit, a 2022 batch student. Overall, the meeting gave an opportunity for the past students to meet their classmates again and to ponder the wonderful memories of the days that they spend in Athens, also for the currents students to get a better understanding of the jobs, challenges, new technologies and research in the field of wind energy. We also had a lab week, where we made our own wind turbine from wood and tested it in the wind tunnel. It felt so good to do something hands own and do a working model. Our professors arranged a barbecue on the final day of lab and it was a new experience for me, I never had a barbecue with professors inside the Uni till now. After the labs we had the exams and soon after the exams we all went back to our country. Overall it was a really good semester both in academics and also with other experiences.