

ERASMUS+ Experience Report

Sending Institution: Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, Germany
Host Institution: National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), Greece
Dates of ERASMUS+ Stay: 13.02.2023 – 31.05.2023

Preparation

The preparation process was lengthy but worth it. The Erasmus+ application forms and requirements were straight forward from both the university of Oldenburg and from NTUA, however acquiring signatures from NTUA proved to be a timely process as they had many Erasmus+ application at their institution. Most of the preparation process was spent looking for accommodations that were within a close proximity to the campus and the city centre, and travel was a very straightforward journey to plan.

Travel and arrival

The arrival to Athens, Greece did not have a lot of viable green travel opportunities. The journey from the University of Oldenburg to Athens consisted of two regional trains using the semester ticket to reach Hamburg. From Hamburg a four-hour flight to Athens is the best method. The Athens metro system is fantastic so from the airport to most places in the city are easily accessible.

Accommodation

Accommodations were difficult to find as there are not many legitimate rental sites like in Germany. The best way to find an apartment in Athens for the program is to speak with previous Erasmus students or use Airbnb to ensure a good place. I used Airbnb and shared with one other person.

Studying at the host university

Studying at the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) was a wonderful experience, the campus is quite run down but the educational quality was of a very high standard. My semester consisted of four 7.5 ECTS modules (30 ECTS total). My course was a specialization in wind energy. The four modules and brief descriptions are as follows:

Module 1: (7.5 ECTS) Wind potential, Aerodynamics & Loading of Wind Turbines	The analysis of wind potential in flat and complex terrain, aerodynamic features of wind turbines, the prediction of the aerodynamic behavior of blades using blade element theory, solving problems of Structural dynamics, and aeroelasticity.
Module 2: (7.5 ECTS) Wind Turbine Design, electrical & Control Issues, Certification	Electrical conversion systems, wind turbine control, design of wind turbines, performance testing and modelling, electrical integration, standards and certification and large-scale integration.
Module 3: (7.5 ECTS) Wind Farm Technology, Economics & Environmental Issues	Wind farm technology issues, wind farm design (wake effect, etc.), wind turbine economics, environmental issues, market development and status of industry, offshore wind, and wind forecast.

<p>Module 4: (7.5 ECTS) Mini-Project and Wind Farm Study</p>	<p>Mini-Project: a literature review and presentation on the topic of my choosing related to the field of wind energy. Wind farm study: from start to finish of a wind farm based off provided data.</p>
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(a)



(b)

Figure 1: (a) Wooden wind turbine rotor constructed by the class. (b) Agios Giorgios wind farm visit.

Everyday life and leisure time

Athens is a very dense and beautiful city with lots of things to do! The city centre offers a large variety of restaurants and historical sites to be visited. The largest and most beautiful historical site is the world-famous Acropolis. The following picture was taken on my first trip to see the Acropolis in February, since the tourist season had not yet begun, it was not very busy, and we had the opportunity to see without the large crowds.



Figure 2: In front of the Acropolis of Athens.

Greece also offers many opportunities to travel the country and see many of the Greek islands! The following pictures show some of the incredible places I visited during my semester abroad.



Figure 3: (a) Meteora monasteries. (b) Santorini. (c) Outside of ancient Olympia.

General experience and conclusion

My overall experience throughout my semester abroad in Athens, Greece studying at NTUA was incredible and has helped me grow academically, and personally. The friends and memories made along the way will be with me for a lifetime. If I were to give prospective NTUA Erasmus+ students some advice, it would be to start looking early and inquiring about accommodations! The rest will fall into place, and you will have the experience and studies of a lifetime.