

EXPERIENCE REPORT EUREC 2015

NATIONAL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS (NTUA)

FEBRUARY – JUNE 2015

Planning

Moving to another city and country makes you realize how many things you have accumulated and that you have to pack it somehow. It is better to prepare with at least two weeks of anticipation of your travel and realize if you really need everything for your next location or you could leave something behind; if it is useful, perhaps a friend could use it or even better you could give it as a donation.

The sooner you book the flight tickets and find accommodations in Greece the better and cheaper, the connections to Athens are not many if you are looking for low prices and finding an apartment from a distance can be difficult and time-consuming. In my case, I booked the tickets in November, to travel in February, and I found tickets from Hamburg to Athens in a considerably good price with Easyjet.

Travel and arrival

At your arrival at the Eleftherios Venizelos Airport of Athens you could use the metro line that departs from the airport, the cost of the ticket is 8 euros per person. If you feel the need to take a taxi because you have too many bags; the cost of the taxi depends, of course, on the address that you are going to, however, for an apartment close to the University the taxi should cost around 35 euros.

Accommodation

The area close to the University is called Zografou, the average rent is around 300 euros and you can find flats or rooms in dorms with shared areas. In my case, the apartment was at 3 km from the University and I could walk almost every day to class. When looking for accommodations, it is important to ask for final prices and asking for pictures of everything that is advertised. Get in touch with the Master coordinator at NTUA (Mr. George Caralis) and he will put you in contact with the right person for accommodations.

The NTUA is the Polytechnic School in Athens and it hosts the engineering undergraduate and postgraduate programs. The courses that I took in NTUA were part of the wind specialization of the EUREC Master in Renewable Energy, and were hosted by the mechanical engineering department.

The course is split into three main sections. The first one included aerodynamics, aeroelasticity and statistics. In this section, we also had the opportunity to use a software called GAST where we could model loads in turbine blades using different scenarios and wind characteristics. The second section was delivered during two intense weeks in the Center for Renewable Energy Sources of Greece (CREG); in these weeks, we discuss topics like

certification of wind turbines, calibration of anemometers, blade designs and material properties, electrical and mechanical issues, among many other subjects taught from different guest lecturers. In this section, we also learned how to use a software called Bladed, this software was teach by an expert of DNV-GL. In the third section, other complementary topics were include such as environmental issues, offshore wind, economics, wake effect, and also another important software was teach, the Wind Farmer, and was deliver by DNV- GL as well.

To complete the specialization, a mini project was complete by each student; in this paper, we were free to choose a wind related topic from a list of suggestion in preparation of the future master thesis. The report was submitted and a presentation was deliver to the students and the members of the academic staff.

Everyday life and leisure time

Athens is a very interesting and cultural city, the list of places to visit are endless and the time is very short. The supermarkets, cafeterias and bakeries are open all day, from Monday to Saturday, while most of the other stores are close during siesta time, which is between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Almost everything is close on Sunday, except cafeterias, bakeries and restaurants. For entertainment, I highly recommend staring with the Acropolis, the Acropolis Museum, Philopappou Hill and Plaka. This place is the oldest neighborhood in Athens and is full of things to see, monuments, restaurants, bars and much more. The food is amazing, truly amazing and you can find traditional sites in Plaka or Monasteraki. If you are looking for nightlife, the areas of Gazi and Monasteraki are the places that you could visit first. The most traditional drinks are the Ouzo and Raki, and almost every restaurant gives these drinks as gift to the people after finishing the meals.