



NOVA Lisbon

2018-2019

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The exchange application process went smoothly. It is very clear what documents to prepare, sign, and hand in, since you follow clear steps through Osiris. There is only one point of attention I wish I knew about at the beginning of the application process, which are level 3 courses. Some courses are considered as level 3 by NOVA, but not by UU. This might cause some delay in your studies.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The counselling and support department at Utrecht University was always very helpful, and available. You can always visit the study advisors or exchange office who answer all questions you have.
academic preparation
With a solid 2-year bachelor's background in Economics and Business Economics at Utrecht University, there was no additional academic preparation required.
language preparation
Since all courses available for exchange students at NOVA sbe are in English, there is no language preparation required. Also, most people in Portugal speak English very well. However, in case you would like to learn more about Portuguese, NOVA offers an extended language course with high discount for erasmus students.
finances
I recommend to save as much money beforehand as possible, since it makes life abroad a lot more fun. You will be able to do more activities, go on more trips, etc.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
In my opinion, all courses I took were very well aligned with the pre-hand course description. For each, the content is interesting, informative, and well-organised. Just 2-3 times, a professor didn't show up for a lecture without prior notice. However, this didn't disturb me at all, because you have a lot of time to go through the material. There is no strong tendency to lack behind on schedule.
academic quality of education activities
As a 3 rd year student at NOVA, you will enjoy courses that consist of several different graded components. This means, your final grade is not dependent on just the final exam. You will be graded based on participation (both in theoretical as in practical classes), (group) projects, continuous evaluation, and the final exam. This does not imply, however, that you are obligated to attend all classes. In case you are not active in participation, your final exam will receive a higher percentage count.
From all courses I attended (Entrepreneurship, Operations Management, Busines Seminar, and Information Systems), I learned a lot. You will follow 4 courses, covered over 4 months. This allows you to sustainably gain knowledge for the long-term: you - naturally - won't have the feeling of studying very hard to pass and forget about the material after the exam. All courses include a lot of practical attention, which allows you to transfer theoretical knowledge into practical experience.
The professors are all very experienced in their discipline. Still, they never look at you as someone beneath them, but as equals whom they always want to help and teach everything they know. They are always there for



you, and guarantee you their support.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The counselling and support department at NOVA sbe has always been very helpful, and welcoming. They are fast in responding to any questions or requests you may have.
transfer of credits
N.A.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
NOVA's Student Union is mostly responsible for academic events and the welcome week. In this orientation week, you will obtain a great taste of typical, fun activities to do around Lisbon and on campus, and meet new friends fellow students. Therefore, I recommend to attend as many activities as possible. Also during whole year, many interesting, academic events are organised - famous people (like Alan Carr and the President) come up stage and tell you about their knowledge and experiences.
accommodation
Together with the new campus, a student housing complex called MILESTONE was built. I decided to live here, in stead of in the city center. This was a great decision; I became very close to my neighbours, and we undertook a lot of activities together. There are many benefits of living on campus: within 2 minutes you are in class, you are always close to home, MILESTONE has a party budget, organises fun events/trips, and you are never dependent on public transport. Also, the area is beautiful: you are a 2-minute walk away from the beach and there are many bars and restaurants closeby. There is just one downside: you are not in a city center - if you e.g. want to go out in clubs a lot, you will have to take the train or book an Uber to go to Lisbon. Still, there are always people who would like to go together (and split the costs). So, also that is very do-able.
leisure & culture
Portugal's leisure and culture is amazing. No matter what day of the week, there are countless fun things to do. For example, you can attend live fado music at many bars, there are many musea around (free entrance at the 1 st Sunday of the Month), you can go surfing, you can visit Sintra, you can go to restaurants and clubs, you can visit cities like Cascais, Porto, Ericeira and Nazaré, and Portuguese people are very friendly. They will always recommend you must-sees and help you organise your trips.
suggestions/tips
I recommend to go to Lisbon some time before the start of your first class. The first week I got to Portugal, I stayed in the LostInn Hostel in the city center, which was a lot of fun - you will meet many Portuguese and international people, and discover a lot about the city and the country in general.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
With more than 100% certainty, would I recommend this university and destination to others. I could not have wished any other place to do my erasmus; the new campus enjoys the greatest ocean views, and Lisbon is easily accessible by Uber or train. The people are amazing, and the weather continuous to be warm and sunny during the whole year.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
In short, I advice to 1) be on time with picking courses and discussing these with the UU Study Advisors (concerning the level 3 requirements), 2) save money beforehand, and 3) plan and enjoy as many trips as



possible around the country.

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I applied for studying abroad after the first deadline, so I could only choose between the remaining places. I was happy to see that Lisbon was still available, but NOVA SBE had connections with the REBO faculty and I study at the Computer Science faculty. After contacting the international office about this and telling them that I wanted to follow Business and Economics courses they allowed me to go there as well. I had to make an appointment with the student counsellor of the Economics faculty to find out what courses I was allowed and able to take. Then the student counsellor of my faculty accepted these and after I sent my CV, financial plan and motivational letter I was accepted. The process went very smooth overall.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Both the student counsellors of the Economics faculty and the Computer Science faculty and the international offices of both faculties were very helpful and made my alternative application process easier. They even sent me a checkup e-mail after the hurricane in that area.

academic preparation

Since I do not study Economics or Business I was not allowed to follow a lot of courses. Most of the courses at NOVA SBE have required precedences so I could only pick the first years courses. In consultation with the student counsellor I picked the courses that were the most interesting for me.

language preparation

I didn't learn any Portuguese before I got there and during my stay I downloaded an app but it is quite a difficult language to learn. Most of the people, especially the younger people in Lisbon, speak English well.

finances

Applying for the Erasmus grant and OV compensation was pretty easy, furthermore I had my student loan and got money from my parents to fund everything. I expected Lisbon to be cheaper than it actually was. The tourism in Lisbon increased a lot the last few years, so because a lot of landlords decide to rent their properties to tourists student accommodations are quite expensive. Food and drinks in restaurants and bars are still very cheap if you know where to go.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I followed introduction courses in management, economics and finance. It was nice to do something completely different from my regular courses. Applying for these were pretty easy since they made an instruction video. The organisation was a bit a mess in the beginning, but that was because the new campus just opened and was still under construction. The facilities are very nice, big light classrooms with ocean view in some of them. Most of the courses had good online support. Each course had many contact hours but they were not mandatory. I also had many tests during the semester.

academic quality of education activities

In my experience the course I took were more difficult than the courses I have at my home university. The requirements to pass a course were quite low so they were still fine to pass. Some friends that took different courses also said that the courses were more difficult than back home. It was easy to notice that NOVA SBE is



really trying to be a top business school since they organize a lot of educational and leisure events.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Their International Office is very nice and helpful. They really try to put the university on the map internationally. In the beginning things were still a bit unclear since everything was new for them as well but after a while everything was sorted out and smooth.

transfer of credits

Every course was worth 7,5 ECTS. They use grades from 1-20 where a 10 is sufficient. For transferring the grades they use a conversion table based on the percentage of the students that got that grade. This goes from A-E.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The international welcome week was very nice. There was a pubcrawl, boat party, beach party, surfing lessons, typical portuguese dinner, tour around the campus etc. Since I did first year courses I was also allowed to go to introduction week of the first year students. Most of these people were Portuguese so I didn't really fit in but I still had a good time there with some fellow internationals. In Portugal hazing of the first years is also a big thing, so the first years are busy with this the first few weeks. In the first week of september was the inauguration of the University by the president of Portugal with a big party which was very nice to be able to attend. In the city center there are two organisations especially for Erasmus students; ESN and ELL. They organise a lot of events and trips and give you a lot of information about everything. You can acquire a card at both organisations that gives you discounts and free entrance at party's.

accommodation

The new campus is in Carcavelos at the beach which is very nice, but far away from Lisbon's city center. I chose to live in the city center instead of on the beach because there is apart from the beach and the university not a lot going on there. It took me around an hour to go from my apartment to the campus, so I preferred to do that a few days a week while living in an exciting city. If you prefer to study, surf and work on your beach body the campus or Carcavelos is the place to live and if you like to go out, see and do stuff Lisbon is the place. There are different ways to find an apartment, but I would recommend booking one beforehand. I started searching for one after I arrived and a lot of nice places were already gone. I would recommend living near the train to Carcavelos since it is already quite a trip from there. I went by the ELL office and they can help you find an apartment but they are quite expensive. There are also numerous websites like Uniplaces. I lived next to the ELL office at the Erasmus corner which is very nice but sometimes very loud.

leisure & culture

Lisbon is an exciting city with a lot going on. There are a lot of historical neighbourhoods. Many nice and affordable bars and restaurants and a few good clubs. A lot of people at NOVA surf since one of Portugals best beaches is next to the university. There are many sport teams you could join, I played hockey with some expats every Saturday. Next to my apartment was the Erasmus corner, the place where a lot of international students gathered every night to hang out on the street with very cheap drinks before going to a club. Close to Lisbon there are a few places worth visiting, like Sintra and Cascais. There is enough to explore and there is a lot going on every day. It is a very cultural city with a lot of festivals, concerts, art exhibitions etc. I would really recommend The Brunch Electronik festival which is every Sunday in the summer.

suggestions/tips

I would really recommend to do as many trips and see as much as possible. I noticed after 2 months that the only things I did was go to the university, the beach and party so I started doing that more the last few months. The people in Lisbon are a very international and open crowd and it is nice to meet people with whom you



normally wouldn't hang out.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I would. I had a very good time in Lisbon, made some very good friends and met a lot of interesting people. NOVA is a good university that organizes a lot of stuff for students. I had to study quite a lot but there was still time to do nice things. I really enjoyed the beach life and the weather is very good almost every day.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Some areas in the city are not very safe since Portugal is still quite a poor country. Some Portuguese friends advised me not to walk alone in some areas of the city. Ubers and taxis are very cheap so that is a solution to that problem. Nothing bad happened to me but I've heard many stories from friends. It probably wouldn't be worse than other big city's.

2016-2017

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I made a top 2 of the destinations I wanted to go to. Lisbon was my second choice, but at the end I am very happy I went to Lisbon. After I made the top 2 I had to make a list of courses I wanted to do at the destination of my first choice. So when I heard that my exchange was going to be in Lisbon, I looked up the courses which were possible for me to do and chose from these courses. I also made a financial plan with all my predicted earnings and expenditures.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Utrecht University gave presentations about going abroad and helped me choosing my top 2 destinations due to information on the website.

academic preparation

I didn't need academic preparation.

language preparation

The language of the courses I chose at Nova was English and my entire bachelor in Utrecht is in English as well, so I did not do any language preparation.

finances

When you go to an European country, you receive the Erasmus Grant. This together with OV compensation, 'studiefinanciering' and some help of my parents, it was enough to have a nice life abroad.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I went to Nova School of Business and Economics and I followed one management course, one law course and one economic course. To enroll in the courses was a little bit of a struggle but after a while it worked. The books you need are available in the library and you could print them in the copy shop which is located on campus.

academic quality of education activities



One may think that the courses from a university in Portugal are easier than in The Netherlands. Unfortunately this is not true. The material of the courses is a lot and quite hard. The exams and projects are not easy either. So pay attention to which course you choose and look carefully at the requirements (so which courses and knowledge are needed to do a course).

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

There is not specifically a lot of extra support, but they have an exchange office and if you need help, they will help you.

transfer of credits

Every course I did was worth 7.5 erts. They rate from 1 till 20, with 20 being the best and with letters. I don't know if my grades will change.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Nova had an entire week of welcome activities. One day was mandatory and students from the students association gave a tour around campus. For the other activities you had to sign up. They had for example a pub crawl, a tuc tuc tour around the city and a weekend to the Algarve. The week was very well organized and not many universities in Lisbon did a welcome week like this. Next to the welcome activities of Nova there are the welcome activities of erasmus student organisations ELL and ESN. The day after I arrived I went to the ELL office at the erasmus corner in Bairro Alto. They gave me a portugese simcard and explained to me how to get the metro card. These organisations plan a lot of welcome activities, parties and trips to for example Porto. I wasn't a big fan of the trips because it is really massive and with a lot of people, but the parties were very nice.

accommodation

The accommodation of the university is outside the centre. If you live in the city centre you have to go 7 minutes with the metro first and then it is still 10 minutes walk. But this is the case for almost every university in Lisbon. It is way better to live in the city centre than to live close to your university. It is very nice to walk through the centre everyday. It is also more safe during the night in the centre compared to areas outside the centre. There is a metro till 1 a.m. so if you don't live in the centre, you have to take a cab to wherever you want to go after 1.

leisure & culture

Lisbon is a very big city with a beautiful centre and a lot of sightseeing spots in and outside the centre. Everyday I saw something new. I loved walking around the city in the old streets, for example Alfama and Bairro Alto are typical old Lisbon areas and are absolutely beautiful (especially alfama). There are a lot of miradouros in the city, these are viewing points. From here you can enjoy the beautiful view over the city or relax in the sun. If the weather is good you can take the train (around 30 minutes) to the beach. You will pass Belem on the way, which is another must see area in Lisbon. The beaches are not that big but good enough. The nightlife in Lisbon is really good, there are a lot of bars in Bairro Alto and after that you can go to the Santos where the big clubs are, or you just go to cafes.

suggestions/tips

I recommend to book a room in advance. The first month a lot of people didn't have a room and were living in hostels. They had to look for a room everyday and ended up with not very good rooms, outside the city centre and for a lot of money. Book your room a few months before you arrive to make sure you have a nice room in the city centre. Websites like uniplaces have a lot of furnished rooms and it is a trustworthy website. I recommend to look for a place where you share the rest of the house with other exchange students. By this way you have a lot of friends and you don't have to feel alone.



CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I absolutely love Lisbon. It is very beautiful and really bog so a lot to see and to do. The weather is amazing (if you are lucky also during the winter). You will never be bored in Lisbon. Nova is a good university with many courses available in English. But don't underestimate the courses, at Nova they really expect you to study.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Enjoy your time in Lisbon from the beginning, before you know it its over and you will miss it everyday.



NOVA Lisbon

2015-2016

PREPARATION
exchange application process
Lots of paperwork and preparation. The acceptance from NOVA took me a while, and that the invitation letter was sent almost in June. Don't know how the working process is this slow. But in general, you would still have enough time to prepare and apply.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
I didn't get much support from our university as they can also do nothing about the working process in Lisbon.
academic preparation
Need to figure out what you want to study before in the study plan, and check the course manual from NOVA carefully. Some of the level 3 courses are not recognised as level 3 courses here in Utrecht even though the workload is so much more and the difficulty level.
language preparation
I did not learn a lot of Portuguese before going there. I had an application on my phone for the basics.
finances
Given the erasmus grant and the general price level in Lisbon, if you have no problem financing yourself here in Utrecht, you would have no problem surviving there too. Might also be able to cover some small trips around the country/area.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Study programme is fine, as they offer diverse kinds of courses that we don't have here. But keep in mind that not all professors are of good quality and some courses might be really bad. Didn't encounter this myself but I heard from another erasmus friend of mine that the professor in his course doesn't even bother speaking in English and the whole course, excluding the exam and lecture slides, are entirely in Portuguese.
academic quality of education activities
Courses I had was with good quality except the course Entrepreneurship. I really like the other courses as the professors are really inspiring and provide interesting lectures. You can tell that they spent quite a lot of efforts in the preparation of the course. Reasons I don't like the abovementioned entrepreneurship course is that I don't like the teaching method of the professor, presentations each week was unnecessary, the teaching assistant is not assisting in any ways, and that the exam has totally nothing to do with bearing the entrepreneur mindset. In order to pass it, you need NONE innovativity at all, as long as you are capable to learn everything in the lectures by heart and write it down.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Their erasmus desk there is helpful and they are all willing to help incoming students with their difficulties regarding studying, registering of courses, etc. Didn't receive counselling.
transfer of credits
Even though they said on their website that certain courses are of level 3, Utrecht University doesn't really recognise them as so.



STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

They have plenty of programmes offering new incoming students so as to facilitate them to a whole new environment. These mentioned programmes are rather diverse, which aim to fit people from different background that have different taste. For example, they have faculty dinner, surfing tour, wine tasting, etc.

accommodation

They offered not much help on this issue. Or put it this way, they only mention a website to you (uniplace), and expect you to find your own housing. But in general, finding nice accommodations in Lisbon is rather easy, given also that the prices are relatively lower than The Netherlands.

leisure & culture

Their culture in Lisbon is really diverse. Leisure activities are also plenty for you to choose. Nice bar area, nice coast line, nice square, party organisers, shopping malls, etc.

suggestions/tips

Usually Portuguese students(locals) stick together and you wont be able to know many of them (in my case). My friends were mainly all erasmus, and we had tons of fun. This school also requires many hours of study and effort in order to get okay grades as they are one of the best universities in Portugal.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes I would. It is a beautiful place to live in, school itself is okay, but the teachers for the lectures are mostly really good in terms of teaching methods and their qualification. Portugal itself also offers tons for you to explore, which would be an ideal place if you like history and different cultures.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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