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|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Faculty/college | Faculty of Social Sciences |
| Level (bachelor's or master's) | Bachelor |
| Name study programme | Sociology |

| | |
|---|---|
| Destination city & country | Coimbra, Portugal |
| How did you travel to your destination? | I travelled to Coimbra by multiple buses and came back to Utrecht by multiple buses and trains. |
| Name university abroad | Universidade de Coimbra |
| Start date | 11 / 09 / 2024 |
| End date | 17 / 01 / 2025 |

You are requested to write on the following topics. Text boxes will expand automatically while typing!

PREPARATION

How did you experience the exchange application process at Utrecht University?

The exchange application was a real pain, to be quite honest. It unfortunately didn't go smoothly at all, and I had to get a lot of deadlines pushed back, resulting in stress during my summer break, merely weeks before my exchange began. This was mainly due to communication (or lack thereof) issues on Coimbra's part. The courses I wanted to follow wouldn't get approved and even got rejected, but then they also wouldn't let me change them in their system. The courses weren't approved because I chose some courses that weren't in the right faculty (make sure to only choose from FEUC if studying Sociology) as well as some courses that weren't in the right semester (it wasn't disclosed on which semester they would be on the website I was using, so make sure to use FEUC's website!). So, make sure you start early with sending them the courses you want to follow and don't give up. I also ended up needing to change some courses when I arrived in Coimbra, so don't overthink it. So overall, I think there is a lot to be improved on UC's part.

How did you experience the counselling & support from the International Office?

The counselling and support from UU's International Office were really great. During my stressing times (as mentioned above) they guided me and really helped me out. They were quick to respond (sometimes within 30 and once even within 10 minutes) and always understanding of the situation!

Did you do any language preparation? If so, what did you do?

I did not do any language preparation. There were lots of English courses to choose from. I encourage you to go to the website of the faculty abroad you intend on attending (FEUC is most likely the one if you also study Sociology) to see the English courses they provide. There were also lots of Portuguese courses that are thought in Portuguese. However, for most Portuguese courses, the assignments and exams were also provided in English, which can be helpful if you don't really master the Portuguese language.

How did you finance your exchange?

My exchange was financed by the Erasmus+ Grant, DUO's uitwonende beurs and DUO's OV vergoeding. This covered about all my expenses, but I did have luck with the pricing of my housing, as it was cheaper than average.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

How was the organisational process regarding your course registration?

- Was it difficult to find and/or change selected courses?
- Can you say something about the language of instruction for the courses available?



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which courses did you end up taking? |
| <p>So, once arrived in Coimbra, I found out that the courses that I had chosen overlapped in part. Thus, I had to change some courses. This process went smoothly, the steps you had to take to change these courses were really clear and in the meantime, I was allowed to follow the courses I was intending on taking. The communication with the international office in Coimbra was great once being in Coimbra, because their office would be open every day of a work week, so you could always pop by and explain any problem you needed help with.</p> |
| <p>How was the academic quality of the courses?</p> |
| <p>The academic quality of the courses was great and I thoroughly enjoyed them!</p> |
| <p>How did you experience the counselling & support from the host university?</p> |
| <p>It wasn't the best, but it also wasn't the worst. I feel like they overcomplicate things a bit, but they do try to help and are kind.</p> |

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| STUDENT LIFE |
| <p>How was the welcome & orientation programme?</p> |
| <p>It was fine and only a one-day thing. However, there is also "ESN" which is a great organization that organizes a bunch of events throughout the whole semester, which I also really recommend checking out, especially in the beginning to orientate yourself and meet people!</p> |
| <p>How was the process of finding housing? For example, was it difficult finding housing, how was the rent, was it what you expected?</p> |
| <p>Personally I found it very difficult, because I didn't know where to look. The university kind of made it seem like you could get housing through them, but this was not true at all, as their housing is intended for fulltime students (and thus not international students). In the end I found my housing through a family friend, but I've heard there is a bunch of housing listed online and you just have to know where to look. I also know some people that chose to only find housing once in Coimbra and that just stayed at hostels until finding the place they liked most, so that is also an option!</p> <p>I think the average rent is 350-400 euro per month from what I've heard. I got my house for 250, but that was due to a lot of luck. Most houses in Coimbra are also very cold, so be prepared for that!</p> |
| <p>What did you do for leisure & culture?</p> |
| <p>I joined the women's rugby team in Coimbra (@aacrugby)! It was a great experience, and I miss my team already! I got to travel around Portugal for matches and there were some other exchange students on the team which were nice to meet, but there were also a ton of local girls, which were also very fun to get connected with! I had no prior experience in rugby, and this was no problem at all as I wasn't the only one and it was free of charge! They even gave you a free gym membership which was really nice.</p> <p>Besides this I also went shopping with friends, travelled around the country (with new friends but also with people visiting me) and went for drinks and food! Because I was able to build my own schedule, I chose to only follow courses on Monday and Tuesday, which gave me a lot of room to do all these fun things!</p> |

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| CONCLUSIONS |
| <p>Would you recommend this university/destination to others? Please explain.</p> |
| <p>Yes, I definitely would recommend this university and destination. Coimbra is a lovely city that is a combination of great (international) student communities, with a lot of nightlife but also a bit of peace as it is not really a big city. I had a great time there and made some great friends and I really miss it! I knew I had to come back at the</p> |



end of the semester, however, I was so used to my life there that it felt kind of shocking and drastic I had to leave because I was so happy there!

Do you have any additional advice or comments for students who would like to go here?

All the stress of the application process etc.: it's totally worth it! Just go for it and make it a great time. Furthermore, if you're scared of getting homesick: I did not get homesick at all, because I had so many new fun impressions and things I was doing there! I felt like I didn't have the time to miss people back in the Netherlands.



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|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Faculty/college | Social Sciences |
| Level (bachelor's or master's) | Bachelors |
| Name study programme | Interdisciplinary Social Sciences |

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Destination city & country | Coimbra, Portugal |
| How did you travel to your destination? | Airplane |
| Name university abroad | Universidade de Coimbra |
| Start date | 01/09 /2024 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| End date | 31/ 01/ 2025 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

You are requested to write on the following topics. Text boxes will expand automatically while typing!

| PREPARATION | |
|--|---|
| How did you experience the exchange application process at Utrecht University? | The Exchange application process at UU is pretty straightforward and easy. There are a lot of information days, and everything is explained in detail on the site. Any further questions I had were always answered quickly by the coordinators |
| How did you experience the counselling & support from the International Office? | Really good! Never had to wait long for an answer on any questions I had. But I didn't need so much support as well due to most questions already having been asked before on the site. |
| Did you do any language preparation? If so, what did you do? | I had a couple hundred days on duolingo, I had followed some courses in Spanish so I was familiar with the grammar, but I didn't really do a course Portuguese. |
| How did you finance your exchange? | Saved up money, but I work remotely 6 hours a week which I could continue in Portugal. That and the Erasmus grant were enough to finance my stay. In my year and im guessing yours as well you can obtain a free buss-card as a student, with which you can travel your entire stay. I paused my dutch free OV so I got a extra free travel grant of 113 euros, I advise you to do the same (free beers/ciders 😊) |

| STUDY ABROAD PERIOD | |
|---|---|
| How was the organisational process regarding your course registration? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was it difficult to find and/or change selected courses? • Can you say something about the language of instruction for the courses available? • Which courses did you end up taking? |
| | It was a bit of a rowdy start. You get a very long list of courses but it doesn't really say the language of instruction or give any description of the course. So I had to remake my learning agreement as some courses from the list were not available, or simply not being taught that year. I ended up checking the courses via each bachelor program on the universities site, there the description, the language of instruction and level etc are all mentioned. Next to a Portuguese language course, I followed three psychology courses, which were each in Portuguese, except one which had English guest lecturers. It was definitely doable but a bit hard to motivate yourself to go to a lecture if you can't follow everything. I just translated all the slides, and the exams were all in English. In my experience, most level 2/3 courses have a greater chance of being taught in English, or having the usage of English literature. And nearly all Economic faculty courses are in English. |



How was the academic quality of the courses?

The courses were good quality, the examination requirements were a lot lower than in the Netherlands though. And everything just isn't as well organised as in the Netherlands, one time I had to wait 60 minutes in a classroom for my exam to start because they still had to print the exams.

How did you experience the counselling & support from the host university?

The people are kind, open and helpful if you approach them the same way. That said, it isn't organised as neatly so finding the right people that can answer your question can be quite the challenge.

STUDENT LIFE

How was the welcome & orientation programme?

We got a neat explanatory meeting and a cool bag with all sorts of Universidade de Coimbra stuff. Other than that, finding where your classes are in the city can be a challenge at first. You just have to ask your Portuguese classmates nicely, if you know how to find out who your classmates are that is. But the university is damn beautiful so getting lost sometimes wasn't the worst that can happen.

How was the process of finding housing? For example, was it difficult finding housing, how was the rent, was it what you expected?

It is really easy to find a house. I found mine on a site called uniplaces. This is a site advertised by ESN Coimbra, they also have a coupon code for it. Other than that there is a ESN Coimbra Whatsapp group you can join via the link in their Instagram Bio, in that appgroup a lot of student-rooms were advertised as well. There are a lot of rooms which you can't find online as well, you could go to Coimbra and stay in a hostel for a few days and ask/look around for a nice house. MY ADVICE definitely get a room close to the Praca de Republica, this is basically where all the clubs and nightlife is. It is in the center of nearly everything. Except if you want to follow a lot of courses at the sporting faculty, then a house near Santa Clara might be better. There are also some pointers on finding houses and what to avoid on the ESN Coimbra site.

What did you do for leisure & culture?

It was still sunny and around 25 degrees in September-October so I went to the beach a couple times, and there are a lot of really nice parks to chill in with friends. There are multiple nice gyms as well, I went to the one in the sport faculty which was quite nice and it wasn't busy. I didn't really travel much but if you are a true traveller there are a lot of Erasmus students who are up for a trip together. I do really recommend Porto though, been there twice and each time it was a blast, almost as beautiful as Coimbra.

CONCLUSIONS

Would you recommend this university/destination to others? Please explain.

YES definitely. Coimbra is one of the most beautiful cities I've ever been to. The city lives around the university, and to be a student there is an incredible experience. The university itself has a rich history and countless cool historic places are scattered around the city. I really recommend the Joanine library, it is the most beautiful thing I've seen in my leave, really quite the spectacle. The student experience in Coimbra/Portugal is different than in the Netherlands. There is more of a group mentality, I found all the other students to be welcoming and opening, even more so if you speak a little bit of Portuguese (A "bom dia" or "obrigado" often already suffices). The difference in classroom is also noticeable, it is much more custom to ask questions and be friendly with the professors in comparison with the Netherlands.

And then of course you have the nice weather, having sun the entire year round is a really great plus. And of course the low prices of basically everything makes you feel like you are student royalty.

The bureaucracy is a bit lacking but if you just be like the Portuguese and take it easy it really isn't a bother.

All in All I really recommend this destination, there isn't any other city I would rather go to, and I've only heard positive experience from fellow Erasmus students, even if Coimbra was 2nd or third on their list of destinations.



Do you have any additional advice or comments for students who would like to go here?

It really doesn't get that cold, up until late November/ December so don't take too many warm clothes. It can get rainy so don't forget a good raincoat. As mentioned before definitely try and get a room close to the Praça de Republica. If you go by plane, Lisboa airport and porto are both good choices, then a flixbus to Coimbra for a few euros is the way to go. I also recommend getting a ESN card as you get a discount for any ryan air flight and a free 20kg suitcase for 5 flights among other nice stuff. And lastly, there is a Instagram account "The.goat.list" with a lot of nice restaurants in Coimbra. Last place I went to which were very nice: Yuma Sushi/ Yuma Barbecue and Wok Mondego. Enjoy your stay!



ERASMUS+ STUDIES - UU Report

Contact info available at the IO

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| faculty/college | Geoscience (Geowetenschappen) |
| level | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD |
| name study programme | Natuurwetenschap & Innovatiemanagement (Natural science and Innovation Management) |

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| destination city & country | Coimbra, Portugal |
| how did you travel to your destination? | by plane |
| name university abroad | Universidade de Coimbra |
| start date | 11 / 09 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 02 / 02 / 2024 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

PREPARATION

exchange application process

When I started studying I already knew I wanted to go abroad in my 3rd or 4rd year. So eventually in my 3rd year of my studies I started looking at the application process and I did not know where I wanted to go, only that I wanted to stay in Europe. The application process was besides choosing the destination really easy. Everything is explained well on the UU website and therefore it was well communicated what we had to hand in to apply.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I didn't need much counselling & support, because everything was well explained on the UU website.

academic preparation

No preparation needed.

language preparation

My courses were in English so I didn't need preparation.

finances

I saved up some money for this trip, but in the end I didn't need much of it because I also loan and get the grant from the government. Also Portugal is cheaper then the Netherlands.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Portuguese Language - very nice to learn some of the language and cultural of Portugal

Terrorism & Counterterrorism - very interesting course on terrorism, different than courses I followed in the Netherlands

China and the International Society in Asia - interesting to learn some things about China because I did not have much knowledge on China and Asia.

Interpretivist International Relations - not my favourite but it was not so hard, which was nice



academic quality of education activities

Way easier than in the Netherlands

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

A lot of the times it took a lot of time before they answered some e-mails, but did not need much support so that was okay.

transfer of credits

Not yet fully completed, but I passed every course I followed.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The University of Coimbra had with their ESN a full programma where each day you could join something to get to know the other international students, which was really nice. The university itself was in the beginning a bit vague because it started later than was communicated with us, but in the end everything fell into place.

accommodation

Got accomodation via an UU student who went to Coimbra few years ago. Was really easy and also a nice and cheap house.

leisure & culture

Not that different, because it's still Europe. But Portuguese people always late haha.

suggestions/tips

Don't stress too much, everything will fall into place once you get there. My tip would be go to the location already 1-2 weeks before study starts so you can already settle and get to know the other students. Also don't think about spending money too much and just enjoy and go on a lot of nice trips. Madeira was my favourite.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes! I really liked that I was in Coimbra because the city is not too big, it has a lot of history and the university is beautiful. From Coimbra it is really easy to go to Lisbon and Porto, and make other trips through the country. Also it is easy to go via train to the beach, it does take some time.

do you have any additional advice or comments?



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Contact info at the IO.

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| faculty/college | Faculty of Humanities |
| level | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD |
| name study programme | English Language and Culture |

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| destination city & country | Coimbra, Portugal |
| how did you travel to your destination? | Car |
| name university abroad | Universidade de Coimbra |
| start date | 01 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 01 / 07 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I have to say that the preparation process for an Erasmus exchange is quite convoluted. It was not the best experience. There are a lot of documents to read and fill in, of which a good number of them have deadlines. This was not the problem per se, but rather the fact that, for me at least, a big part of the process was unclear. I had a lot of questions initially that could have been answered in preparing documents, and whenever I asked a question to either the sending or the receiving university, answers were often a bit vague (if my questions were answered at all). With the deadline factor this made things quite stressful. There is a lot to be done in a short amount of time, and even though there are introduction meetings where the Erasmus Office explains many aspects of the process, there are other aspects that aren't even mentioned at all. So my advice is to stay on top of things always, so as not to lose oversight. However, in the end I did manage to do everything on time and correctly (at least up until now) with the help of a few International Office workers.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Whenever I had any questions they were usually answered well, although it would often take a while to get a reply or to get to the point of the question. I understand that the people that work at the International Office have very busy schedules, but sometimes it did feel like they wouldn't answer my questions (that to me seemed simple), but rather redirected me to a website that I had already been to before and where I hadn't found my answer. But as I said, this happened sometimes, usually contact was all right.

academic preparation

In my case I don't feel like academic preparation was really needed, except for the usual preparation for a course like any other. Some of the differences between the sending and receiving institutions did strike me, but nothing drastic, mainly regarding administration and examination.

language preparation

Language preparation wasn't necessary in my case, as I spoke Portuguese fluently before applying to a Portuguese university.

finances

For me financial costs were a bit higher, because I travelled to Portugal by car and used it there as well (which I have to say was worth it, because you're able to see a lot of the country that you wouldn't otherwise by public transport). However, other costs, especially when it comes to preparation aren't that high. In my experience it was almost exactly as I had expected it to be.



STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The study programme is quite different. You have semestrial courses that have a relatively low work load, so to get to your 30 ECTS per semester you need five courses. You'll do them all at the same time, but honestly it doesn't feel like too much. At the end of the semester there is about a month of exam period, and this can be a bit tricky, because you'll have five exams you need to study for and possibly some projects to finish as well. Other than this the only thing that seemed a bit strange in my eyes is that all the classes are lectures. You have two two-hour lectures for every course every week, and of course you have the possibility to ask questions, but there are no seminars. This means that you take notes during class, do the reading at home (which is not always available online, and in such cases also very limitedly available in the library), then study this literature for your exam. This is, of course, regarding the courses I took, at the FLUC (faculty of humanities), and as I've heard from friends of mine that attended other faculties, their experiences are different - sometimes better, sometimes worse.

The content of the courses is not drastically different, but what I have noticed is that it seems a bit more superficial than what I am used to from Utrecht University. This might also be due to the lack of seminars, where you would usually find in-depth discussions. However it's nice to see the different takes on education different univeristies have.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of education is all right. It is noticeable that in the Netherlands there is a more academic approach, while in Portugal it's almost a more academically inclined extention of secondary school. Not bad, but as I mentioned before, it could go a bit more in-depth, rather that just discussing the predetermined literature.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

This was exactly what I expected from Portugal, given my experience with other Portuguese institutions (non-academic). They will help you, but administration is just a bit messy and it takes them a long time to reply or take care of the issues at hand.

transfer of credits

I have to say I don't really understand how the transfer of credits works, but it seems fine.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

It was a bit unclear initially where we should be and at what time on what day, but as long as you ask someone, you will get clarity. The welcoming session wasn't anything special, but they did explain a few things nicely before the start of the semester.

accommodation

As you would expect in any country in these times, housing is difficult to come by. Not impossible, but make sure to put some work in, to get something you are comfortable in. What really made a difference for me is that I could stay with friends in Lisbon while looking for accommodation in Coimbra, so that I was close enough to come visit whenever I needed to (and it was free, as opposed to getting a hostel for a week or more until you find something permanent).

Coimbra is quite cheap, especially if you have a shared house. Mentionable, however, is the fact that there are almost no houses with built in heating. So you will probably have to buy one for yourself to stay warm (as well as to keep your house from being inexplicably humid).

leisure & culture



There are a lot of cafes and bars and restaurants in Coimbra, as is normal for Portugal in general, but because Coimbra is such a student city, you'll get to meet a lot of amazing people. Erasmus is also quite big in Coimbra, so there are a lot of different cultures merging and learning from each other.

Going out can be very cheap, especially in places where you might get an ESN discount.

suggestions/tips

1. If you like to live in party houses, go for one of the many Repúblicas. They are super cheap and organise lots of parties that so many students attend. If you would rather not live there and just go to the parties, make sure to know what house you're ending up in.
2. What really helped enhance my experience on Erasmus is having a fixed group of friends. You should always be open to meeting new people, because you'll have so much fun and learn new things from them, but having a friend group that you will come to love over the course of your stay will make the experience really special.
3. When looking for accommodation: look at as many sites as possible (Facebook, Idealista, OLX, etc.), and call as many numbers as you can. Whenever you are rejected or aren't a fit for the room, always ask if the landlords know other places you could apply to, this is what saved me and got me an amazing one-person studio.
4. If you can keep it up, go out as much as you can, but also go to your classes - and just sleep inbetween. You will get the best of both worlds.
5. Go see places and learn about them in Coimbra but also outside as much as possible. Portugal has so many beautiful places and such amazing delicacies to offer.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend this destination. Mainly because of two things: its location and the fact that it's just a different university setting than you're used to. I enjoyed my classes, because most of my teachers were good and passionate about their fields. I've heard of some people that didn't enjoy theirs quite as much, because of a lack of quality, but even then I think it can be really good to experience that, because you'll get to learn about the academic culture in a foreign country and maybe even come to appreciate education in your own country.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

The application and completion processes of the Erasmus exchange can be tiring and frustrating, but after your semester/year abroad you will find that it was all worth it.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

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|----------------------|--|
| faculty/college | Beta |
| level | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's |
| name study programme | Information Sciences |

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| destination city & country | Coimbra, Portugal |
| name university abroad | UC (Universidade de Coimbra) |
| start date | 01 / 09 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 01 / 02 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

| PREPARATION | |
|---|--|
| exchange application process | Applying for an Erasmus at the UU is quite simple. It takes some time, but the internationals office clearly let you know when you have to finish what. Because of Covid, there were some extra measures I had to take, but I don't think this will be a problem anymore in the future. |
| counselling & support at Utrecht University | The internationals office at the UU is very helpful. If you have questions, they always provide you a clear and quick answer. |
| academic preparation | No academic preparation is needed. At the beginning of your time in Coimbra, you have to let them know which courses you want to follow. You can then follow them and still change courses up until 6 weeks after arrival. This means that if you notice that a course is too difficult, you have enough time to still change to another course. |
| language preparation | Most courses are taught in Portuguese, except for those at the Economics faculty, or master related courses. They offer a 3 weeks language course before the actual classes start, which I really recommend taking. I only chose Economics courses, so I did not really need the language course, but I really liked it, since it also helps you with already getting to know some new people, and starting to understand some Portuguese. |
| finances | Coimbra is quite a lot cheaper than Utrecht with normal expenses. Most rooms are around 200 euros. Also, restaurants are cheaper. They have a lot of cantinas, which are mostly meant for students. Here they offer lunch and dinner for a very cheap price. The only thing that is more similar to Dutch expenses, are the prices of the supermarkets. |

| STUDY ABROAD PERIOD | |
|---|---|
| study programme (content and organisational issues) | I studied at the economics faculty, since this is the only faculty that mostly offers English courses. I choose some courses that sounded interesting, but changed almost all of them during the first weeks of my time there. This was a nice opportunity they offer, but it also gave me some extra stress, since they always took a long time to respond and the deadline of having a final learning agreement was arriving. |
| academic quality of education activities | |



At the University of Utrecht, I study Information Sciences, which has no similarities to Economics. Some of the courses I followed in Coimbra were 3rd year courses, but not very difficult. This kind of shows that the academic quality is quite a lot lower than in the Netherlands.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The support receiving in Coimbra was a bit more chaotic than in the Netherlands. It always took quite some time before the internationals office answered on emails and they were always pointing me towards others with problems. This was sometimes a bit difficult, but at the end you will always work it out.

transfer of credits

Not done yet

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Just as in Utrecht, Coimbra has an internationals association called ESN, which organizes a lot of fun activities, especially in the welcoming months (September and February). I joined a lot of these activities, which made it very easy to get to know the city and make new friends.

accommodation

Coimbra is a city with a lot of students and student residences. There are probably more rooms than students wanting a room, so it is quite easy to find one. I would recommend not searching for one online beforehand, since there are some posts that are fake. I booked an Airbnb for the first days and asked people around if they knew of places that were available. Because of this, I had the opportunity to first look at the room before actually deciding to take it. (try searching around Praça da República)

leisure & culture

Portuguese people are very relaxed. Everyone is always late and a lot of things are not that well organized. At the beginning, I had to get used to this a bit, but after a while I kind of liked the environment.

suggestions/tips

Join as many ESN activities as you can/want. This way you will make a lot of new friends. Also, enjoy the beautiful places Portugal has to offer. It is very cheap to rent a car to drive through the country.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes. Coimbra is one of the cities with the most students living close to each other. Almost all the nightlife happens around one square (Praça da República). Because of this, it is super easy to make new friends and have a great time. The weather is good and Portugal is a beautiful country, with a lot to offer.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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