

Universidade de Coimbra

Portugal

Winter 2020-2021

- City of the exchange: Coimbra

I have travelled by plane with the cheapest airlines. I highly recommend to sign for ESN card while being in Portugal since it gives discounts for taking planes and also a free 20kg language every time.

- Courses

Coimbra as a University have a useful online platform called "infostudante". There we can find all the courses, all the support materials, all the notifications and all the deadlines. It's also a place where you need to sign for a exams and it's really important to remember about. In infostudante you can also manage your schedule and ect. I took all courses at Faculty of Economics, all in English. The classes were mixed, online and present. Important note: exams were in present!

It all depends on Faculty that you are choosing, for me Faculty of Economics were perfect. Despite the online lessons that were in terrible quality (let's hope they will improve it), the support materials were helpful and the exams were not hard and also there was a lot of writings instead like essays (20 pages) and presentations to do in groups.

- Accomodation

In Coimbra there is a lot of accommodation places. Its basically not a struggle to find a perfect place. There is a help with finding accommodation provided by the University and also they have dormitories.

Also warning note! Do not pay any deposits before you will came to Coimbra. I found a lot of people from Poland that were scammed and they lose money and ending up without place to stay. Be careful with that because there is a lot of offers that want to abuse your trust! And also idealista is not perfect for finding place either. The best way is just too came here, ask on groups and check apartments.

Also choose wisely, near your faculty because Coimbra has many hills that you need to walk up and down ending up being really tired.

- Communication with the host University

I would say it like this: don't waste time to wait till the deadlines, because they communication through emails should be easier, but its definitely not! You will need to be patient while writing to the University, because they usually need a couple days to replay to you. And if they will you will be always be pleased with the answer.

- Cost of living

A room in Coimbra we can find for even 150 euro, but it all depends on the living conditions. Averagely I would say it is about 220 euro. I am paying 250 euro, but I am renting whole apartment with one person. It is a hard to find a whole apartment to rent, usually you can rent a room with shared spaces. There a plenty places to choose from: party houses, university dormitories, private dormitories.

As a food Coimbra has a great canteen deals for students, for about 2 euro you can buy a good meal with soup, 2-dish and a dessert.

The prices in the shops are not much higher then in Poland approximately equal to 1,2 times higher.

- Students' life

At the begging before lock down it was perfect! ESN meetings, games and great integration. Now during the lock down we need to meet at houses. Still fun, but its quite sad.

- General opinion

I can highly recommend to come to Portugal especially to Coimbra. During the winter remember that there is a lot of rain and almost all the houses are poorly isolated and with poor heating solutions. Besides that people are really helpful and it a great opportunity to learn new languages like Portuguese (don't forget to put it in your LA), and to improve your English.

The views, architecture and the city structure is stunning and quite historical. Renting a car here is also cheap so it is a great opportunity to travel all around Portugal (if there is not lockdown of course). In Portugal you can find nice beaches but also a nice mountains! The food is great, but definitely not vegan friendly. All the cities are unique and every time you will find a way to fill your time (for example by exams).

Good luck with your mobility! In any cases if you want to know more you can find my contact through coordinator.