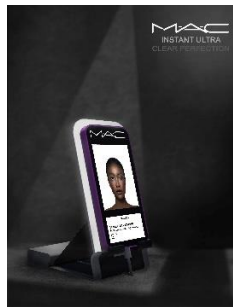


Hello, I'm Gizem. During the 2019-2020 Spring Semester, I had a semester education with the ERASMUS+ program at Instituto Politecnico de Castelo Branco. The reason I wanted to benefit from ERASMUS+ in the spring semester of 3rd grade was that I wanted to have my basic education in interior architecture at Yaşar University. The reason I chose the spring term was that it would be easier to plan small trips besides the education in milder weather, and I planned to buy my return ticket later and spend my summer there. But unfortunately the Covid-19 did not agree with me. The first case occurred in March when I was in Porto, and limitations on education and social life began that week. Online education started, restaurants only started takeaway, market hours were limited, mandatory quarantines were made. In this way, there were no cases until June in the city where I live, and the situation was well controlled with the sensitivity of the people. Unfortunately, we did not have the opportunity to take face to face lessons and get to know the students in our classes due to the coronavirus. I continued my limited lessons with online classes. Since the language of classes were Portuguese, I and my friend who attended the ERASMUS+ program with me were taking separate English critics from the classroom. If I had not contacted ESN(Erasmus Student Network) before going to Portugal, this could be a reason that isolates us. However, ESN helped me a lot in arranging accommodation before I went and in communicating with students from all over the world when I went. The rents varied between 150-200 euros due to the small city. I rented a house with another Turkish friend, our monthly rent and bills were around 210 Euros and I can say that the grant we received was more than enough. I hope you will benefit from ERASMUS+ mobility in a corona-free period and enjoy the parties and excursions prepared for you. Unluckily, I was able to attend these events for a month. Apart from the activities arranged by ESN, the plans made in the group were mentioned and other people were invited. Do you want to go for coffee, just tell this to people and you will be sure to be many student in a minute. Because the aim of everyone participating in the ERASMUS+ program is the same: meeting new people, seeing new places, having lots of fun and of course benefit from a different country's education. The problem you may encounter in Castelo Branco are that Spanish and Italians hang out together and they are quite crowded because the city is in the border of Spain. The reason for this is that because of the similarity of their languages, their knowledge of Portuguese is sufficient for them to come for education and some of them cannot speak English. But don't let that stop you from trying to communicate because our closest friends were Spanish and Italians! Although they were initially shy about speaking English, our culture that sometimes very close and sometimes completely different and our cuisine brought us closer, and then we had a great time with the house parties, travels and camps we planned with them. Unfortunately, I did not have the chance to take advantage of all educational opportunities or travel much because I went during an unfortunate period, but I had very good friends and had the chance to get to know myself better and discover my expectations from life. It was an experience that I will never forget and always remember with a smile.



Furniture Design
inspired by Portugal



Phone Holder Design
for MAC Cosmetic



Selfcare Studio at Brazil,
Lina Bo Bardi's house



Albufeira, Algarve, Portugal



Albufeira, Algarve, Portugal



Castelo Branco, Portugal



Castelo Branco, Portugal



Berlin, Germany



Ponta da Piedade, Lagos, Portugal



Sintra, Lisbon, Portugal



Castelo Branco, Portugal



Peniche, Centro, Portugal



Porto, Portugal



Lisbon, Portugal



Aveiro, Baixo Vouga, Portugal



Berlin, Germany



Sintra, Lisbon, Portugal



Castelo Branco, Portugal



Jardim do Paço Episcopal, Castelo Branco, Portugal



Ribeira da Ocreza, Castelo Branco, Portugal