

Hello,

I studied at the Instituto Politécnico de Castelo Branco University in the Castelo Branco region of Portugal with the Erasmus + program in the spring semester of my third year. Ever since I started university, I have always had the idea of going to Erasmus+. If I need to explain why I went in the 3rd grade, I wanted to go after taking second-year subjects, as it was the year, we learned the most about the profession and the program. One of the biggest reasons I chose to take advantage of the Erasmus+ program was that I wanted to study my department abroad and I wanted to improve my daily English-speaking level.

Firstly, I am one of the unlucky Erasmus+ students who coincided with the Covid-19 period. What I have to say in the field of education should therefore be evaluated within the framework of the Covid-19 period. The lecturers of the elective courses I took gave a research assignment as Portuguese was mostly spoken in the courses and finally evaluated it with the delivery of the article. We had the chance to take one-to-one critics online in practical lessons. The subject I was most excited about in terms of education was that we were going to produce our own furniture at school, but I could not find the opportunity to take advantage of as the schools turned to distance education. In Yaşar University education, we are not forced by the teachers to make hand drawing, but I can say that the teachers of the furniture lesson there focus on hand drawing. We had some difficulties in the critics due to the uncertainty of the period and the transition to online education in the studio class. Normally, every week we had a chance to take a critic, but it was not intense education as in Turkey. In the studio class, we had to take the 3rd grade studio there, but because it was their graduation year, there were some problems for us in the project. One of them was that since we went there for the second semester, they had already selected the project areas and improved them. The second was that since it was a graduation project, we had to do all kinds of research, budgeting and submit it as a report. Despite these difficulties, the teachers tried to help us as best they could.

Below I will share the projects I made in the furniture and studio class.



STUDIO RENDERS



STUDIO RENDERS



FURNITURE RENDERS



STUDIO RENDERS



STUDIO RENDERS



FURNITURE RENDERS

Before I went on Erasmus+, my mind was full of thousands of questions. I would like to share with you a few questions that I cannot find the answer without going there, maybe it will help you. First of all, you need to talk to ESN (Erasmus Student Network) and ask for help with accommodation before you go. The sooner you act, the better because the number of homes reserved for Erasmus+ students is limited. ESN will give you a buddy. ESN buddy is a student studying at the IPCB who will help you voluntarily and you can ask anything. It helps you both in terms of accommodation and introduction of the city. Another question in my mind was whether the grant would be enough. Since Castelo Branco is a small place, it would be appropriate to say that your money stays in your pocket. I can conveniently

say that the grant is very enough. Apart from that, of course, the biggest question of families is security. If I compare all the places I have been to in my life with Castelo Branco, I can say that Castelo Branco is the place I feel the safest.

The area where Erasmus+ contributed the most to me was sociability. As soon as I went, I met other people who participated in the Erasmus+ program by participating in the events organized by ESN. I had time to attend all the activities due to the low load on the school in the first month I went. During the quarantine period, as there were no cases in Castelo Branco and the intercity borders were closed, we started to do activities at home with our Erasmus friends. I think this is how we took advantage of Castelo Branco being a small place. During the normalization process, we organized activities to see the natural beauties within walking distance with my friends with whom we spent the quarantine. If it was not for Covid-19 and the borders were open, we probably would have the chance to go abroad and not spend time in the beauties near us. During this period, my constant spending time with my foreign friends helped my English practice improve. Although I cannot show much improvement in terms of grammar, I can now express myself more comfortably in everyday speaking language. Another nice thing about Erasmus+ is that you are completely free and have the time and money to improve yourself with experiences. If you like to travel, see new places, meet and interact with different cultures, Erasmus+ is a great chance for you.

You spend 5-6 months with open-minded people like you from every country, and you can find people closest to your interests and experience being completely yourself. Maybe Covid-19 prevented me from seeing more countries, but despite that, it was the best period I have ever lived. Erasmus+ is an experience to be lived, whether or not there is a worldwide pandemic.



*Castelo Branco, Portugal*



*Castelo Branco, Portugal*



*Sesimbra, Lisboa, Portugal*



*Jardim do Paço Episcopal,  
Castelo Branco, Portugal*



*Ponte Luis I, Porto, Portugal*





Belem Tower, Lisboa, Portugal



Coimbra, Portugal



Castelo Branco, Portugal



Peniche, Lisboa, Portugal



Castelo Branco, Portugal



**ERASMUS+ 2019-2020 FALL SEMESTER**  
**Instituto Politécnico de Castelo Branco | Portugal**  
**SEÇİL BEYGİRCİ**



*Erasmus National Games, Coimbra, Portugal*



*The Brandenburg Gate, Berlin, Germany*



*Pena Palace, Lisboa, Portugal*



*Castelo Branco, Portugal*



*Castel, Castelo Branco, Portugal*



*Benagil Caves, Lagos, Portugal*