

ERASMUS 2020-2021 SPRING SEMESTER
Instituto Politecnico de Castelo Branco | Portugal

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As a 3rd Year Interior Architecture and Environmental Design student at Yaşar University, I had the opportunity to spend the 2020-2021 Spring Semester as an exchange student at the Instituto Politecnico de Castelo Branco in Portugal. It was a very good opportunity for me because I had the chance to get to know different cultures and to see the educational standards of my department in Europe. Apart from these, I had many unforgettable social experiences.

In the first month that I went to Portugal, the effects of the pandemic were still strongly felt (online education and quarantine), but during this time I had the opportunity to get to know myself. Since I had never been abroad and lived alone, I discovered many things about myself that I did not know. At the same time, this experience impacted me in a good way in terms of my self-confidence. Other Erasmus students and the ESN community also made me feel welcomed during the quarantine.

The Lisbon and Porto tour that I took with other Erasmus students after the quarantine was unforgettable. During this time, I got to know students from other countries and their cultures. My favorite thing about the institute was the fact we were able to do applied lessons in the workshop for furniture class. I learned a lot about the basic use of carpentry tools as well as the processing of multi-use materials such as acrylic and laminated wood. The fact that the activities carried out in all courses, including the studio course, were related to Portugal's culture, enabled me to learn traditional Portuguese design. It was a very useful and beneficial experience for me, so I recommend it to everyone.

