

ERASMUS 2017-2018 FALL SEMESTER
Instituto Politecnico de Castelo Branco | Portugal
Cemre - Samasas

I'm Cemre Samasas. I studied at the Instituto Politecnico de Castelo Branco school in Castelo Branco, Portugal, in the 1st semester of the 4th grade, with the Erasmus Exchange Program in 2017. It was incredibly difficult for me to make the decision to go. The thought of leaving the people I love, going to Portugal, a country I never thought of, my poor English level, and most importantly, being doing this right in my graduation year. Before I left, I had so many question marks in my mind. While going to the country I chose on that plane, 'Where am I going now, what am I going to do?!' I couldn't get the questions out of my mind. However, I think everyone should have the courage to experience such an experience in their education life.

As an interior architecture student, it was an unforgettable experience to see the historical buildings, design approaches and important architectural works that I studied at school. Traveling the world has always been my dream and with Erasmus, I had the chance to see most of the places I dreamed of. First of all, I started by exploring the cities and natural beauties of Portugal, about which I knew almost nothing. I've been to Lagos, Faro, Albufeira, Sagres in the Algarve region, famous for its beaches in the south, and had the chance to swim in the ocean. I saw the historical sites and architectural structures of Lisbon, the capital. In my favorite city of Porto, I watched the sunset and visited the famous wine cellars. Apart from that, I had the chance to visit many small cities of Portugal with the ESN (Erasmus Student Network) community. But I think the most enjoyable part is being able to organize all the plans yourself. I have made my dreams come true by visiting Barcelona, Madrid and Seville in Spain and Rome, Venice and Florence in Italy for the Christmas holiday. In addition; Hamburg in Germany and I had the chance to visit Berlin. I've been to the Elbphilharmonie concert hall, which I've always wondered about, which was opened in 2016.

I believe that Erasmus contributed a lot to me both socially and educationally. It was a great experience to produce my own designs in the university workshop, to meet different design approaches, and to witness that my language is improving every day by speaking English both in daily life and at school. I am sure that this will give me positive feedback in my future business life. I also think that Erasmus contributed to the development of my personality. I learned to solve my problems alone, to be more courageous and self-confident. It is a great chance to get to know different cultures, to be curious about the language they speak, to eat the food they cook, to laugh at the things they laugh at, and to be able to do these together, mutually. Before I left, all these things seemed impossible to me. While thinking about how to arrange the lessons, time and money, the things that stay in your mind after you return: different experiences, good friendships, realized dreams. When I think about it now, Erasmus program is the best decision I have dared and succeeded!