

ERASMUS 2023-2024 FALL SEMESTER Instituto Politecnico de Castelo Branco I Portugal Eren BAŞARAN

Hello, I'm Eren Başaran. I had the opportunity to complete my fifth semester in the Interior Architecture and Environmental Design Department at Instituto Politecnico de Castelo Branco in Castelo Branco, one of the smallest settlements in Portugal.

I had been considering benefitting Erasmus since my first year, but one of the things I feared the most was the language barrier. After overcoming this problem with various trainings and passing the exam, the only thing left was to choose the country.

Because I am interested in the history of the Iberian Region, I especially wanted Portugal. My whole adventure started from there. Since the department I attended at IPCB was Interior Space and Equipment Design, classes mainly take place in workshop environments. The theoretical knowledge learned in class is immediately applied in the workshop, and the remaining classes are very similar to those in our system. Since most instructors speak English, they explained everything to us in detail at the end of the classes, so I had no problem with that. Designing a product with the freedom I desired in the workshop environment was one of the most beautiful experiences for me. Not only design, but also all kinds of information about various processes from production to packaging are acquired. At the same time, in practical lessons, seeing what we learned physically transform into a product was a perfect thing for me.

I think the Erasmus Program is something incomparable in terms of experiencing and learning something among foreigners in a different country both academically and in terms of language development. Also, I think it contributed a lot to me in terms of different ways of working and learning. Being in a foreign country thanks to Erasmus taught me very well how to take care of myself. As for social life, unlike a city where you can experience a crazy Erasmus period, I can describe Castelo Branco as a city where you can relax more, budget-friendly, with warm-hearted people. I spent most of my time in Castelo Branco with Erasmus students from various countries. One of the best things it gave me was to see how effective it is to live in the same environment with foreigners in terms of language and culture.

After realizing that I had toured Castelo Branco enough, I visited the cities of Lisbon (Sintra and Belem), Covilha, Fundao, Guarda, Porto, Coimbra, and the Azores in Portugal respectively. I can easily say that it was one of the most beautiful countries to visit in Europe. The locals were very warm towards foreigners; I did not have any problems in this regard during my time there. I highly recommend trying each of their desserts because they are very good at sweets. In summary, it was a unique and equally fun period that everyone should experience at least once in their life...



Corridor of the art faculty



My teacher who helped me in the workshop



Cutting Workshop



My Angolan classmate

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**One day we gave an interview to
Portuguese national television**



**A day where everyone brings
their own local food**



Unforgettable and clean streets of Castelo Branco

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BELEM



SINTRA



LIZBON



COIMBRA



AZORES



COVILHA



GUARDA



PORTO



FUNDAO