



Experience Report

ISEG Lisbon - Portugal

Academic Year: Winter Semester 2024/2025

Term Dates: 02/09 – 11/01/2025

Name: 

Degree Programme: Business Administration – Corporate Development

Completed Courses:

- BLAB - Behavioral Lab (2 ECTS)
- DMO-DAB - Decision Making and Optimization (6 ECTS)
- PCIP - Planning, Control and Integration of Production (6 ECTS)
- EPA-MIM - Excel & Python Analysis (3 ECTS)
- MM-MIM - Marketing Management (3 ECTS)

Experience Report – ISEG Lisbon, Portugal, Winter Semester 2024/2025

My semester abroad at ISEG Lisbon during the winter semester 2024/2025 was an incredible experience that I'll cherish forever. From academic challenges and meaningful connections to unforgettable trips and Lisbon's charm, every aspect of this journey contributed to my personal and academic growth.

Daily Routine and Academic Life

At ISEG, classes typically started at 9 a.m., with most courses scheduled twice a week throughout the semester, except for three midterm-based courses (Beh. Lab, Marketing and Excel & Python). The smaller class sizes compared to Cologne created a more intimate and interactive learning atmosphere. Discussions and presentations were common, encouraging active participation and collaboration. The interactive nature of the courses was a refreshing change and made learning more engaging. During my semester, I primarily connected with international students, including many Germans. This international network made for a diverse and dynamic student environment, fostering friendships and cultural exchanges.

Courses and Academic Experiences

I completed five courses during my time at ISEG. The **Behavioral Lab (BLAB)** (2 ECTS) focused on developing soft skills like teamwork and professional communication. Despite being listed as a 2 ECTS course, the workload for presentations and written assignments was quite high. The **Decision Making and Optimization (DMO-DAB)** (6 ECTS) course centered on linear programming and involved a lot of calculations, making it challenging but not too difficult. **Planning, Control, and Integration of Production (PCIP)** (6 ECTS) was a foundational supply chain course, with an exam emphasizing calculations. It was also not that hard. The **Excel & Python Analysis (EPA-MIM)** (3 ECTS) course included two parts: Excel was straightforward but involved a handwritten exam with formula sheets, while Python was more demanding with a multiple-choice exam starting mid-semester. Finally, **Marketing Management (MM-MIM)** (3 ECTS) was engaging, with continuous assignments instead of a final exam, which made the course workload manageable and enjoyable.

Lifestyle in Lisbon

Lisbon is a city that invites you to spend as much time outdoors as possible. The warm weather persisted well into late November, making activities like surfing a must-try. Surfing at nearby beaches like Costa da Caparica is both accessible and exhilarating. When not catching waves, I spent my time exploring Lisbon's vibrant streets, enjoying its iconic viewpoints, and its rich café and food culture. Traveling

within Portugal was another highlight. Weekend trips to Porto, Madeira, and the Algarve allowed me to experience the country's diversity, from scenic coastlines to lush landscapes. Public transport, particularly buses (Flixbus or Rede Expressos), is affordable and convenient for such trips. But also flights to close city are not that expensive.

Accommodation and Social Life

I lived in a large student housing complex managed by Houze, close to the ISEG campus. While the shared apartments might seem intimidating at first due to their size (about 7 people in one apartment), they offered a fantastic community vibe. Living exclusively with other students made it easy to connect and build lasting friendships. Although the rent was relatively high for the provided standards, the proximity to campus and the vibrant social environment made it worth it.

Transportation and Dining

During my stay, I relied heavily on ride-hailing services like Uber and Bolt instead of purchasing a metro card. These services are surprisingly affordable in Lisbon and offered a convenient way to navigate the city. Dining in Lisbon was another highlight. From traditional Portuguese cuisine to affordable international options, there was something for every one and every budget.

Challenges and Observations

Adapting to life in Lisbon was relatively smooth, with no significant cultural or logistical challenges. However, one noteworthy observation is the lack of heating in most apartments. As temperatures drop in December, the absence of central heating can make indoor living a bit uncomfortable. While the winters are milder compared to Germany, this is something to be mindful of when packing for your stay.

Final Thoughts

My semester at ISEG Lisbon was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. The perfect balance between academic learning, personal growth, and cultural exploration made this journey unforgettable. Lisbon's charm, vibrant student life, and the friendships I made have left a lasting impact on me. I would highly recommend this experience to anyone considering a semester abroad.

“One of the best times of my life: I had so much fun, enjoyed amazing weather, made new friends, and grew academically along the way.”