



ATHENS – Final Report

Month/Year: 11/2025

Code and name of the course: From Natural Clays to Nanotechnology Solutions: Smart Surfaces and Coatings (ITU19)

Host University: Istanbul Technical University

Course Language: english

Dates: 15.- 22.11.2025

Student: Majerčíková Petra

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Transport:

Means of transport (+ price):

I flew from Prague directly to Istanbul with Turkish Airlines. I had two pieces of luggage included in the ticket price (one cabin bag and one personal item). The final price of the ticket was 168 €, which is approximately 4 200 CZK.

Local transport:

In Istanbul, I bought an Istanbulkart, which works for all types of public transportation across the city, including metro, trams, buses, and ferries. The card cost around 5 €. After topping it up, I could use it for unlimited travel during my stay. From the airport, I took a direct bus to the city center, the ticket can be purchased on the spot either in cash or conveniently by card. The airport to city center bus fare was 300 TRY, which is roughly 150 CZK.

Accommodation:

I stayed at Wabi Hostel, which was recommended by the university. The cost for 9 nights was €180, approximately 4 400 CZK. I stayed in a 6 person dorm, but it was a female only room with a private bathroom. The hostel was clean, breakfast was

included, and the school was just a short metro ride away, taking about 40 minutes in total. Overall, it was a convenient and comfortable stay.

Food:

Breakfast was included in the price, which was a great way to save money. We usually had fresh bread, cheese, and vegetables. The school had a good canteen, with set menus costing up to 100 CZK depending on your choice. For dinner, we mostly ate at restaurants, spending around 250 CZK per person on average, but opting for street food was a cheaper alternative. But of course, when you're in a new country, you want to try a lot of local food, so meals made up a large part of the expenses.

Scholarship – the amount you have received: 10 600 CZK

Please state in percentage: The scholarship covered 70% of my expenses.

Course schedule (how it was organised):

We had school for the whole week. On Monday, we only had an introductory afternoon session. From Tuesday to Thursday, we had both morning and afternoon classes, with the schedule from 10:30 to 12:00 in the morning and from 14:00 to 15:30 in the afternoon. The lessons were entirely theoretical. On Friday, we only had an afternoon session, during which each group presented their project. Our project involved proposing a practical application of a nanotechnology solution, which we then had to present and relate to a real life situation.

Spare time:

Since we finished school by 3 PM each day, we still had plenty of time for other activities in Istanbul. The organizers created a WhatsApp group where everyone coordinated joint activities, so we could join other ATHENS students at any time. They also arranged 3 events for all participants. A registration fee of €40 was required. Participation in the organized activities was mandatory, which was great because it allowed us to spend our free time together.

Overall Evaluation:

It was an amazing experience to see how other universities operate, meet new people from all over Europe, and, most importantly, experience a new culture. I would definitely participate again if given the opportunity. However, it's important to be prepared financially, as the scholarship covered flights, accommodation, and the registration fee, but meals, local transportation, and extracurricular activities were out of pocket expenses.