



ATHENS – Final Report

Month/Year: March 2025

Code and name of the course: UPM148: Fundamentals of Process Simulation in Chemical Engineering

Host University: Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM)

Course Language: English

Dates: 15.3. – 21.3.2025

Student: Bc. Marek Martinian Kolátor

e-mail: kolatorm@vscht.cz

Transport:

Means of transport (+ price): Direct flight with Ryanair (5 375 CZK)

Local transport: 30-day public transport pass (8 + 4 €)

Accommodation:

1-room single-bed accommodation with shared bathroom and kitchen (8 122 CZK) listed on Airbnb

Food:

Eating in the school cantina, full menu for 7.70 € during school. Outside of school combination of supermarket, restaurants and fast-food.

Scholarship – the amount you have received: 9 700 CZK

Please state in percentage: The scholarship covered 50 % of my expenses.

Course schedule (how it was organised):

The course usually started at around 8:30 am and we had an hour-long lunch break at around 2:00 pm with classes finishing at around 5:00 pm. We had a free Wednesday because of a “holiday” and Friday classes were cancelled due to bad weather. The organization of the course was mostly fine in my opinion. However, the first day was a

bit of a mess – we have received the information about the course schedule around 12:30 am on Monday so it was very late. The course was mostly hands-on work with different process simulation programs (each day we tried different methods or programs) with one presentation on Tuesday in the afternoon part. Because of bad weather conditions in Madrid the Friday evaluation needed to be postponed. The evaluation was a case with a process we have learned during the course with relatively simple questions. This course was relatively easy for students who have a chemical engineering degree or generally for people who had experience with other process simulation programs.

Spare time:

Since the official welcome there were social activities prepared by the organizer group every second day. For these mandatory activities everybody had to pay 25 €. The activities consisted of social games and getting to know the other ATHENS participants, city tours and Madrid night-life. During the other days without mandatory activities, I have visited the tourist sites of Madrid, was socializing with other student or was working on my master thesis. Even though the weather this year was not very good in Spain, the mandatory activities were very engaging and it was very nice meeting new people. The program was decently organized, and I have a feeling most of us have enjoyed the prepared activities.

Overall Evaluation:

Overall, I found the ATHENS program very good, and I hope I can try this program again sometime soon. It is a great way to meet new people from around the continent and have interesting conversations with them, to visit a new city and to get to know the local culture better. The social activities were one of the highlights of the whole experience with lovely organizers who were genuinely interested in meeting new people and were very eager to show us tourists the greatest parts of their city. The only minus of the whole trip was very bad weather for Spanish standards, and I have a feeling most of us left with a cold from all the wet clothes and insufficiently insulated apartments. The program *Fundamentals of Process Simulation in Chemical Engineering* was a very interesting course and even though it was relatively simple for me – I already have experience with other process simulation programs – it was still very pleasant to learn new programs which I could potentially use in my future line of work. Overall, I would highly recommend trying an ATHENS course in Madrid.