



ATHENS – Final Report

Month/Year: **March/2025**

Code and name of the course:

A glimpse into some special matrices. Theory and applications (UPM163)

Host University: **Universidad Politécnica de Madrid**

Course Language: **English**

Dates: **March 15th – March 22nd**

Student: **Hana Josífková**

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Transport:

Means of transport (+ price):

return flight ticket for 3300 CZK (bought in advance and the return is not in the day of the course end)

Local transport:

If you're 26 or under, the "Youth 30-day Public Transport Card" is by far the cheapest way to get around Madrid: for 8€ you will have unlimited access to the Metro, Bus and Cercanías for 30 days (any zone). Super cheap!! Extremely worth it, even if you're only staying for a week.

Accommodation:

AirBnB with UCT student, 1 night per 1000 CZK for two people.

Food:

Local bakeries and cafeterias provide bread and drinks that you need. Also, there is a cafeteria in each school so you can buy snack, drink and even lunch menu for 8 EUR. Or you can buy food and drinks in Carrefour or Día markets.

Scholarship – the amount you have received:

9700 CZK

Please state in percentage: The scholarship covered **73** % of my expenses.

Course schedule (how it was organised):

Except for Monday, the course started at 9 AM with half an hour break (11-11:30) and finished before 2 PM. On Monday, we had a meeting at 8:30 AM with local students which guided us to

the school from metro. Lectures consisted of linear algebra theory, proofs, application examples and some exercises but most of the exercises were let for students to do themselves after school. It was also possible to consult via email or zoom.

Unluckily during the bad weather conditions and risk of floods, the school was cancelled on Friday, so that we had to study from home via presentations (with possibility of consultation).

Spare time:

Local students from BEST have arranged a lot of activities for us, leaving only two afternoons on Tuesday and Thursday (optional) completely free. They prepared an amazing program for us so that we got to know each other and the city of Madrid. Once or twice it had to be changed due to the bad weather condition.

Overall Evaluation:

Athens in Madrid have a great tradition on UPM and great people are organizing it. As far as I am concerned, almost everyone enjoyed both the course and the EDA activities organized by BEST. I found my course very interesting but not easy, one has to get into proofs a little. But the application part was analogical to my master's course of signal processing.