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 School: Cesine

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Introduction

Studying abroad is an exciting opportunity for students to broaden their horizons, learn about new cultures and gain valuable educational experiences. I got the opportunity to study abroad in Santander, Spain at Cesine during September 2022 to January 2023. I am studying the Business, Economics, and IT program at the international class in KEA. At Cesine I took classes in social media, digital marketing, audiovisual technology and communication, and e-commerce. In this report, I will reflect on the academic, cultural, personal and practical experiences while studying abroad, sharing insights and advice for other KEA students considering a similar experience.

1. Where and when did you study abroad?

In Santander at Cesine, from September 2022 to January 2023.

2. What KEA program did you attend at the time?

Business, Economics and IT, International class

3. What classes did you take during your semester abroad? Please briefly explain what each class was about.

Social media - We were working on our own imaginary brand on instagram, where we set up goals and actions for the company.

Digital Marketing - We did our own brand here aswell but here we mainly focused on doing a website.

Audiovisual Technology and communication - We did 54 different commercials throughout the semester in a group of 5.

E-commerce - We learned about incoterms, commercial invoices and packing lists, etc.

Academic Experience

1. How helpful was the receiving school in the process of choosing classes and settling you in?

I didn't ask for any help regarding the classes, but each class had a welcome class where you learned what you were gonna focus on. It was also easy to switch classes if needed.

2. What classes/study experiences did you find the most rewarding? Why?

I would say I learned the most in E-commerce, as I have never studied anything like that before. The other subjects were quite familiar from previous studies. Therefore, it gave me a lot of new knowledge regarding e-commerce.

3. What classes/study experiences did you find least relevant or least valuable to you? Why?

Social Media, as it didn't give me any new knowledge. It was very basic information and also similar to the other class digital marketing, so pretty repeating.

4. What classes would you advise other KEA students going to the receiving school to choose or not to choose?

I would advise them to choose audiovisual, as it was the most creative and fun class I had. I wouldn't recommend taking both social media and digital marketing, as they are almost the same.

DESIGN, DIGITAL and TECH students

Cultural/Personal Experience

1. What challenges did you experience culturally while being abroad?

I faced a number of cultural challenges. From language barriers to different social norms and customs, adjusting to life in a new country is not always easy. However, despite these difficulties, I found the experience to be incredibly enriching and eye-opening. I was able to broaden my cultural perspective and gain a deeper understanding of the world around me. Through this experience, I also learned the value of friends, open-mindedness, and resilience, skills that will serve me well in all areas of life.

a. How helpful was the receiving school in this process?

They offered Spanish language courses for free after school time, which was nice to know. However, the Erasmus group had a lot of activities that helped you to meet new people and learn about Spanish culture.

2. What was the best cultural/personal experience during your studies abroad?

I really enjoyed being able to go surfing whenever you wanted. Also, starting the days much later and ending it later as well, for example we usually had dinner around 22-23.

3. What advice would you give other KEA students going to study abroad at the receiving school?

Go to as many different events that Erasmus is hosting as possible in the beginning. It really helps you find new friends in the best way. Also Whatsapp is the best way to get answers to all of your questions regarding the school, there is a big group for everyone ink teachers, where you can ask whatever.

Practical Experience

1. How was the application process?

Super easy, I felt like everything was done so smoothly.

a. What did KEA help you with?

Most of the time, they helped me with all my questions until I arrived at the school.

b. What help did you receive from your school abroad?

Changing classes and making my schedule work I would say.

2. Did you have any practical difficulties settling down in at your destination?

The only thing that was difficult was in the beginning where I was told by either KEA or Cesine (can't remember who told me), that the Spanish courses would be okay to take even though you don't speak Spanish. When I arrived at one of the classes I soon realised that the teacher could barely speak English.

a. How helpful was the receiving school in this process?

Very helpful, I change my classes the same day

3. Where did you live?

I lived 40 min walk from school, closer to the "center" where all the stores are located.

a. Was it difficult to find accommodation?

A little bit, but I was also late with the searching. I didn't find one until 2 weeks before the semester started.

b. Was it expensive?

Not at all, I paid around 250€ a month then I had my own room and lived with 3 other girls though.

4. What kind of expenses did you have in general?

Mostly food and transport. We did a lot of trips which was probably what I spent the most money on. But everything was very cheap compared to Denmark.

a. Did you spend more or less money than you budgeted with?
I didn't really make a budget, but I would say that Santander was cheaper than I expected it to be!

Conclusion

In conclusion, the study abroad experience in Santander, Spain, was a combination of academic and cultural experiences. The receiving school, Cesine, was helpful in settling in and provided Spanish language courses and Erasmus provided activities to immerse students in the culture. The classes taken were a mix of exciting and eye-opening, with E-commerce being the most rewarding. The application process was easy, and KEA provided support throughout. Accommodation was found relatively easily and was super cheap as well. Overall, the study abroad experience was a valuable and enriching one that taught me about different cultures and expanded my perspective on Spain.