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La Salle – Barcelona

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Spring 2022

I decided to study abroad for one semester at La Salle University in Barcelona moved by several reasons. Barcelona is one my favourite cities and I wanted to discover it and get to know the city and the system. Being part of the Spanish education system was very interesting and stimulating for me since La Salle is a very art-oriented college.

When a student applies, She/He will get a list of subjects and the semester schedule with all the lessons' timing. This makes it very easy to organize your life or find a job once you are here because the different lessons will take place the same day and time every week. As well the university constantly organises conferences with different kind of guests specialized in architecture.

The subjects I attended this semester are the following:

- Advance English course: In order to get a degree in Spain, a Spanish citizen has to pass at least level B2 in English. The course is very basic and you will be asked to take a test in the beginning to understand your level. If you pass lever C1, you will just have to attend the final exam at the end of the semester without attend the lessons or completing any deliverables. I picked this subject because I wanted to develop my personal knowledge in English related to architecture and because I wanted to clarify few doubts about emails and essays. The teacher is very helpful and available to correct or guide you in whatever you need, even if it is not related with the topic of the lesson;
- Composition: A very artistic subject, taught both in Spanish and English. You will be asked to draw and write quite a lot. At the beginning in groups you will produce six meters of poster concerning the analysis of a house, meanwhile, every second week you will have to deliver a personal comment about the lesson that will be kept in personal book to deliver at the end of the semester. The second part of the class is indivial and you will be asked to write an academic article related to the house you analysed in group during the semester.
- Construction workshop: Challenging! Amazing and prepared teachers that will expect a very high level of knowledge in Autocad, Revit and Photoshop. This semester was focused on a specific area of Barcelona. We were asked to analysed a specific aspect of the territory and then plan a whole flexible infrastructure according to the needs of the neighbourhood. The teaching lessons were just in the beginning, then It will follow like a workshop were every week you present a new part of your work in front of the class and everybody participates to help you developing your own project.
- Urban Planning management: advanced subject that has a bit of gap with the teaching at KEA since in Spain an Architect has function of Urban Planner as well

As for the social part, Barcelona is a city full of life and things to do. From La Sagrada Familia to the night clubs and parties around in the city. You can find basically anything and if you subscribe yourself on the facebook pages for Erasmus students and expats It will not be difficult to find new friends and activities to do.

To move around there are tickets that include the whole Barcelona's transports. There is a ticket that costs 80 euros if you are less than 25 and lasts 90 days, so basically to travel around in Barcelona I spent 160 euros for the whole period of stay, very cheap. You can check it out in the transport app TMB. I moved around a lot with electric scooters as well with the app YEGO.

At La Salle there is a Cafeteria where you can eat but It is quite expensive, there are vending machines as well with good quality food. As for outside the University, Mercadona is the best and cheapest supermarket you can find here, but Lidl is good as well.

To find a room is very difficult and requires time, be carefull not to pay in advance without seeing the room before or without sending someone to check that the place does actually really exist. The best apps to find a room are Idealista and Badi that are both apps and websites.

To sum up, the experience in Barcelona and at La Salle was great but challenging under many aspects.