

Exchange Report:

A Semester in Barcelona

My Experience at La Salle Universitat Ramon Llull

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Study Details

Period: September 2023 - January 2024

Program: Business Economics & IT (BEIT)

Classes Taken During Exchange:

- Spanish:

Starting from the basics, this was an exceptional class in learning a new language with a great and passionate teacher who was also very patient with the students and practical with his teaching.

- International Business:

Insights into the global business landscape, macroeconomics and insight on how and why global markets operate the way they do. The class was taught by a professor who worked for many years in a multinational fashion company and managed international operations in South America.

- International Economy of the Digital Era:

Focused on economic theories and the history of economic convergence / divergence in the digital age.

- Principles of Finance:

Fundamentals of accounting, budgeting and capital investments.

- Big Data Analysis:

Class focused on Python coding and big data tasks, led by two professors covering two separate topics simultaneously.

- Entrepreneurship and Venture Capital:

An in-depth look at startups, funding, and a semester-long project to develop a theoretical startup idea with a professor who actually owns a successful startup and who raised capital from the investors.

Class Selection and Support

The school was helpful with the process of choosing classes and settling me in, even though it was a bit chaotic and confusing in the beginning, but Ms. Marcela from the international office helped with all the issues immediately and conveniently over the email + occasional meetings in school if necessary.

Class Experiences

Most Rewarding

Learning Spanish to the communicative level, learning about international business from a person that has experience working on a high level position in a multinational company as well as learning about startups from a person that actually owns a startup and raised funding.

Least Valuable

Principles of finance class was very similar to what I've learnt in Denmark thus not super valuable and international economy in the digital era's professor was a sociologist not an economist - that may have provided a different perspective to the subject, but overall the professor was not very engaging.

Advice for Future Students

If you choose the same classes as I picked you won't be disappointed, but also try to fit your schedule so you can have some days off to explore the city and live life outside of school 😊.

Practical Experience

Application Process

The application process was straightforward, all the guidelines were written on KEA's website and the platform to complete the application "Mobility Online" and follow the exchange process was also great and convenient

Anne Dibbern, KEA's International Coordinator, has helped me SO MUCH to make this exchange come true. I wanted to sincerely thank her for being patient and supportive throughout the whole process.

Settling Down in Barcelona

No significant difficulties were encountered, thanks to the effective support from both KEA and the receiving school.

Accommodation

Location:

I lived in a student accommodation called "Xior Collblanc". Collblanc is not the best area in Barcelona, but options are limited for such a short stay and Xior met my basic wants and needs. It was not the greatest but it was good. Also you can meet plenty of people there, but the university is pretty far (30-40 min commute). The area, contrary to popular belief, is very safe and vibrant.

Details:

1250 EUR per month for a studio with balcony and kitchen (+gym access, very new building)

Finding Accommodation:

This particular accommodation was pretty easy to find, but it took me a lot of scrolling and browsing the internet.

Expenses and Budget

- 1250 EUR rent
- 20-30 EUR per day food and other miscellaneous (600-900 EUR / per month)
- 100-200 EUR party / dinner / dates / treating myself every once in a while (200-400 EUR / per month)
- 20 EUR / per month - unlimited public transport (it's great!)

Total: 2050-2550 EUR / per month

I've spent more money than I initially planned, however it was worth it. 😊

Income Sources

I got the money from Erasmus+ grant, self support - I work and my parents were paying my rent.

Cultural/Personal Experience

Cultural Challenges

Barcelona's diversity and welcoming nature meant I had no cultural challenges.

La Salle was very helpful throughout the whole experience - although I wish there were more activities to make friends with local students, but I understand that it was hard logistically because in every class there were different people.

Best Experiences

Meeting a great girl and dating. Learning Spanish and communicating effortlessly with people and just living in this beautiful city with great weather - you can really focus on your health and on what's important in life.

Advice for Future Students

If you hesitate - please don't - it is a fantastic experience, I went completely alone and had a fantastic time, I could even say that it was life changing.