

Erfahrungsbericht über einen Auslandsaufenthalt im Rahmen eines Austauschprogramms (Studium)

Gastland: Spanien

Gastinstitution: Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM)

1. Für welches Austausch- oder Förderprogramm fertigen Sie diesen Erfahrungsbericht an?

Erasmus (Europa oder Übersee)

2. Vorbereitung (Planung, Organisation und Bewerbung bei der Gasteinrichtung)

The preparation took place around one year before when I decided to do an exchange semester. Then I started to check the websites at WISO and TechFak to see the options. Considering that I had not been to Spain, I thought it would be a good opportunity for me to experience the new cultures and studies there. At that time I had to give up on my student job because of the restrictions to work in another country other than Germany. After I sent the host institution all the required documents, including CV, motivation letter and transcript, I got the admission letter in around one month.

3. An- und Einreise (Visum, Flug/Bahn/Bus)

I took the flight to Madrid from Nuremberg, because the train would have taken too long. I also had two suitcases, which made it extra hard to travel by other means of transportation. The flight had a layover in Amsterdam and then around two and half hours to Madrid. Before that I tried to make an appointment with the Spanish Consulate in Munich for my visa, as a non-European citizen. This process took around one and a half month.

4. Unterkunft (Wohnheim/Privat)

I got a room in a private shared apartment in the west side of the city center, which was not bad because it was between the city center and the university that is located in the suburb. Luckily I have a friend who had been studying in Madrid for a while. So he could help me check the place out before I decided to rent it. After I double checked the information of the room I found on the real estate app, I asked the friend to pay the deposit for me to the landlord. That is why the accommodation hunting part was a bit easier for me. I moved in directly after I landed.

5. Fachlicher Aufenthalt an der Gasteinrichtung (Lehrveranstaltungen, Praktikumsinhalte und -aufgaben, Sprachkurse, Stundenplan, Prüfungen, Abschlussarbeit)

The courses at the host intuitions covered a variety of fields and topics to choose from. However, some courses were not very well organised, unlike what was described in the module book. The content was mostly informative, with extra materials to look in. The tasks were generally not very challenging, somehow more time consuming. As for timetable, there were some overlaps between the courses I originally I wanted to take, which was why I had to change my learning agreement. Overall, it was an okay experience.

6. Betreuung an der Gasteinrichtung (International Office, Fachbereich, Praktikums-betreuung

The international office at the host institution was hard to reach sometimes, especially at the beginning. We had to access to the virtual learning platform to be able to view the learning materials, including forming project groups and so on. However, it took almost three weeks for us to get this access. Luckily, most professors were really caring to help the exchange students. Secondly, to change the learning agreement, it also took extra effort with the international office because of their management gaps.

7. Ausstattung der Gasteinrichtung (Bibliothek, Computerräume, Laboratorien, Unter-richts- und Arbeitsräume etc.)

The site of the host institution was well equipped, with all necessary facilities. Library had different types of rooms for different kinds of needs, such as discussion room and project room. Classroom was not too bad, with good ventilation and projectors. The canteen however was located in a basement with insufficient tables and chairs. The good thing is in the cafeteria they offer various kinds of snacks and drinks.

8. Alltag und Freizeit (Sehenswertes, Kulinarisches, Geld abheben, Handy, Jobs)

The city was awesome and really big with all sorts of things to check out and explore. Spanish food was also nice to try and would not make you feel bored. Thanks to EU-Roaming, the SIM cards also work perfect well in Spain. However, the data there is still much cheaper than Germany, so it would be better to get a temporary SIM card there. Moreover, it was easy to visit to other cities from Madrid as well, because the trains also work quite well.

9. Finanzielles (Lebenshaltungskosten, Stipendien, finanzielle Unterstützung der Ga-steinrichtung)

The living experience in Madrid is similar to a normal city in Germany, except the rent, which is higher in Madrid. However, for food and groceries it was much cheaper in Madrid. For public transportation, people under the age of 26 can get the youth card which also costs 9 Euros per month. With the financial support from Erasmus, it could cover the accommodation at least. And luckily the tuition fee was waived.

10. Fazit (beste und schlechteste Erfahrung)

The best part of the experience for me is the chance to experience the Spanish culture in its capital city. Thanks to the Erasmus network, it was also easy to make new friends and attend events. I really enjoyed the part to meet more people from different backgrounds and cultures in this diverse city, which helped my personal growth as well. Additionally, to experience the teaching and studying in a different country was also interesting. The only harder part was the large amount of time for administrative tasks such as visa issue and learning agreement.

11. Wichtige Ansprechpartner und Links

International office at computer engineering department: orex.etsiinf@upm.es

Enrolment procedure as an exchange student: <https://www.fi.upm.es/web/orex/incoming-students/procedure-en/>

Course catalog for exchange students: https://www.fi.upm.es/web/orex/wp-content/uploads/sites/30/2024/07/English_Courses_Catalogue_ETSINF_24-25_v1.pdf

12. Nur Erasmus-Aufenthalte: Für diejenigen Studierenden, die eine Sonderförderung erhalten haben: Bitte stellen Sie kurz dar, wie Sie Ihren Aufenthalt in dieser Hinsicht erlebt haben.

The most rewarding aspect of this experience for me has been the opportunity to immerse myself in Spanish culture while living in its vibrant capital during my exchange period. Thanks to the financial Top-up, I could have more time in studying and making new friends and joining various social events. I also had the opportunity to visit other Spanish cities, which I enjoyed a lot. Luckily, I also had friends visiting me from other parts of Europe, when I could show them around the city which I was living in for a few months. All of these was new experience to me.