

Erfahrungsbericht über einen Auslandsaufenthalt im Rahmen eines Austauschprogramms (Studium)

Gastland: Spanien

Gastinstitution: Universidad de Alcalá

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 for my Erasmus stay in Alcalá de Henares was generally well organized and less chaotic than expected. Nevertheless, personal initiative was required, especially regarding course selection. Modules had to be chosen online at the beginning of August, and English-taught courses filled up quickly. For this reason, it is advisable to review the available programs and modules on the university's website in advance. The International Office was very helpful and responded reliably to inquiries.

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

I flew from Munich to Madrid. From the airport, it is possible to take a direct bus to Alcalá de Henares, or alternatively a taxi or Uber, which I would recommend when arriving with a lot of luggage. No visa is required to enter Spain.

4. Unterkunft (Wohnheim/Privat)

In Spain, shared flats are common, while student dormitories are relatively rare. I found my accommodation through Spotahome, although many students also searched for rooms after arriving and decided on accommodation on site. When looking for a shared flat, it is important to consider the location of the faculty, as some are located in the city center while others are outside the city.

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

I attended the courses International Accounting, Business Trends, Service Marketing, and Internationalisation Processes and the Economy. All courses required a significant workload throughout the semester, including group work, assignments, and mandatory attendance. I would especially recommend Business Trends, as it was very up-to-date, engaging, and enjoyable. Classes lasted three hours each, which was a change compared to Germany but less exhausting than expected. Examinations were usually divided into midterms and finals, taking place in early November and again at the end of December or beginning of January. Assessment formats varied, with fewer transfer-based exam questions than in Germany and a stronger focus on presentations and continuous assessment.

Spanish language courses were offered by Alcalingua and are highly recommended. I participated in a one-week intensive course at the beginning of the semester, which was very helpful both linguistically and socially, and additionally attended a B1 course during the semester that took place three times a week for 1.5 hours. The courses were very well organized and taught by great instructors.

6. Betreuung an der Gasteinrichtung (International Office, Fachbereich, Praktikumsbetreuung)

The contact person at the host institution, Pepa, was very helpful and supportive. At the beginning of the semester, she was very busy, which resulted in long waiting times and delayed email responses. However, this was the only minor inconvenience. Throughout the semester, she regularly checked in, responded quickly to questions, and provided excellent support in helping us settle into the university.

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

The main library (CRAI) is very well equipped and modern, offering various study areas as well as computer workstations. In addition, the Faculty of Economics has its own well-equipped library. Overall, there is a wide range of study facilities available, and a lack of learning spaces was never an issue.

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

I really enjoyed living in Alcalá de Henares. It is an ideal city for a semester abroad, as it is easy to settle in, meet people, and quickly feel familiar with daily life. At the same time, Madrid's city center can be reached in about 45 minutes, offering a wide range of cultural, social, and nightlife opportunities. We spent a lot of time in Madrid both during the day and at night, and the train and bus connections are very convenient. Students can benefit from a monthly transport card costing only around 10 euros, which allows unlimited travel within Alcalá and the Madrid area. Furthermore, the geographical location of Madrid and Alcalá is very practical for traveling within Spain, which I was able to take full advantage of during my Erasmus stay.

9. Finanzielles (Lebenshaltungskosten, Stipendien, finanzielle Unterstützung der Gaststeinrichtung)

Rental costs in Alcalá de Henares were similar to or slightly lower than in Germany, with most students paying between 300 and 500 euros per month. General living expenses, such as groceries, were somewhat cheaper, while eating and drinking out was significantly more affordable. For example, a cappuccino usually cost around 2–3 euros and a glass of sangria about 3 euros, which made social life more enjoyable. The monthly student transport card cost 10 euros. Entry fees for clubs in Madrid were on average around 15 euros and often included one drink.

10. Fazit (beste und schlechteste Erfahrung)

I would wholeheartedly recommend an Erasmus stay in Alcalá de Henares. Living in a small city close to a major metropolis allowed me to feel settled very quickly while still enjoying the vibrant atmosphere and countless opportunities that Madrid has to offer. I especially enjoyed the Spanish climate and lifestyle, the openness and friendliness of the people, the many travel opportunities from Madrid, and the lively nightlife, particularly in Madrid's clubs.

Overall, my Erasmus experience was extremely positive and enriching, and I genuinely had a great time. It is difficult to name a truly negative experience, as my stay was very smooth and enjoyable. If I had to mention one minor point, I would probably not choose the course International Accounting again, as it was rather demanding and time-consuming. Apart from that, my Erasmus in Alcalá de Henares was an unforgettable experience that I would choose again without hesitation.

11. Wichtige Ansprechpartner und Links

UAH Campus Online: https://uah.blackboard.com/?new_loc=%2Fultra%2Finstitution-page

Pepa Rodriguez: economicas.ori@uah.es

Alcalingua: <https://www.alcalingua.com/en>

Find a flat: <https://www.spotahome.com/de>

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.