

**Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg  
ERASMUS Report 2016/17**

<b>Personal Information</b>	
Surname, First name:	<b>Citalán, Sofía</b>
Study programme at FAU:	<b>International Information Systems</b>
E-Mail:	<b>sofia.c.citalan@fau.de</b>
Host university:	<b>Universidad de Málaga</b>
Host country:	<b>Spain</b>
Study program at host university:	<b>Administración y Dirección de Empresas/Informática</b>
Duration in semester (WS, SS or whole year):	<b>WS</b>
May the report be published?	<b>YES</b>
If yes, may name and e-mail be published?	<b>YES to both</b>

1. Preparation (organization, application at the host university)

As a student enrolled in the International Information Systems master degree, it is mandatory to spend at least one semester abroad. So during the Welcome Week we receive information related to the opportunities offered by FAU. I recommend to see these options available as soon as possible, since we only have around one month to prepare. Check the cities and the classes you would like to study over there. Keep in mind that the agreement is with the Faculty of Economics and Business, so you will have to enroll 50% of your classes in that faculty and the remaining 50% from other faculties.

2. Arrival / Visa (flight, train)

During summer there is a direct flight from Nuremberg to Málaga. Some other direct options fly from Munich. Once in Málaga, you have the option to take a taxi from the airport (25 € at any time), a bus (3 € until 00:30) and train (2€ until 00:30).

Since I was born in Mexico, I had to issue a student visa. I was registered in Nuremberg, therefore I had the chance to visit the Spanish consulate located in Munich (Oberföhringer Str. 45, 81925 München) and request my visa from Germany, instead of Mexico. The documents are really easy to gather, it costs 60 €. Since I flew withing the Schengen Area, I did not get any stamp in my passport, so I had to go to the National Police Office (Plaza de Manuel Azaña, 3, 29006 Málaga, Spain) to let them now I had a student visa. I suggest to go there as early as possible, wake up early and let the guards know why you are there. You might be lucky enough to avoid waiting so much time since the process it is really simple. Be patience, they might not be that friendly.

### 3. Accommodation (student residence hall, private apartment)

I started looking for accommodation in “Alojamiento para Erasmus in Málaga” (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/430068013732332/>). There are multiple Facebook groups where people post their offers. Relying on your budget, you can find a wide variety of prices, however a good price is between 250 € and 300 €. The rent usually includes most of the services but gas. So you better confirm that with the owner. If you studies fit within the faculty of economics and business named “El Ejido”, I highly and strongly recommend to find a place in the city center. Food, touristic places and night life is there. If you decide to take classes in one of the other faculties in “Teatinos” it is also possible to live in the city center. You only take one bus (No. 11) and it takes around 45min to get there. There are also places to live in “Teatinos” but they are far away from the social life. So it will be your choice.

### 4. Study at the host university (Courses / Language Courses / Timetable)

Like I mentioned before, it is necessary to enroll yourself in a few classes of the faculty with the agreement. At least 50%. You can also choose classes from other faculties, it depends on your situation. Make sure to follow all the steps specified in the international guide you will receive via e-mail after you are officially nominated. Read that guide carefully and register yourself in the portal (you will also get the link). You will choose your classes there and the, with an official appointment you will become a student. After this enrollment, you will have access to internet, to “Campus Virtual” (which is their StudOn), library and so on. As an Erasmus student, you must enroll in the international office and let the professors know that you want to take their class. After you talk to them, they will give you access to the class information. You MUST speak and introduce yourself to the professors.

### 5. Support service at the host university (International Office, Department)

Málaga University always receives between 1500 and 2000 students each semester. So make sure you read the guide before asking something really basic. They for sure will help you but you can avoid wasting time by being responsible enough and reading the provided information. During their welcome meetings, they provide e-mail addresses, office hours and names so you can contact them. They will be there for you!

### 6. Facilities at the host university (library, computer pool, etc.)

Each faculty has its own library and computer pools. You can enjoy the service after your official enrolment. Ask the team to explain you how they work or how you can enjoy the services. I did not hear of any tour provided for the international students to know how to use all the facilities, I had to do it by myself. Be careful, you MUS NOT leave your belongings alone. Sadly, they have had loses. Make sure to ask someone to keep an eye on your stuff.

### 7. Spare time activities (sight seeking, bank, mobile phone, jobs)

Plenty of things to do in Málaga. The ESN group there will organize multiple events all over the semester. But you can also enjoy the city on your own. There are agencies that offer trips to Madrid, Sevilla, Córdoba, Granada, the near beaches, Morocco and Portugal. Prices are really good and the trips are mostly attended by students, so the environment is really good.

They have Deutsche Bank, you can only withdraw money, so make sure to have the online service active to do any other transactions. The other banks will charge you money, I am not sure how much because I always used DB. But you must check that with your bank before leaving Germany.

I got a Spanish number with Orage. I paid 10 euros and got 2 GB of internet and unlimited calls and sms to Spanish numbers (regardless the company). They also offer Lebara and a

couple more. In general, the service is really cheap. You can buy money in pretty much in every super market or place where they sell tobacco.

#### 8. Finances (cost of living, grant)

In comparison with Germany. Spain is really cheap. I would say that with a 600 € budget would be enough to live. Of course if you are planning to travel a lot you must consider to spend a bit more.

#### 9. Conclusion (best and worse experience)

Relying on the classes you want to study over there, I think Málaga is an excellent place to spend an exchange semester. It is a very touristic place, but if you really want to meet Spanish people, you should have a very good level in the language.

I decided to spend the winter semester there because of the classes I chose and also to run from the German winter. It was indeed warmer than in Germany, but the buildings are not prepared for the cooler temperatures, therefore houses are colder than the streets.

#### 10. Important contact persons and links

Accommodation:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/430068013732332/>

Uni:

[www.uma.es](http://www.uma.es)

[www.uma.es/relaciones-internacionales/](http://www.uma.es/relaciones-internacionales/)

[www.uma.es/facultad-de-ciencias-economicas-y-empresariales/](http://www.uma.es/facultad-de-ciencias-economicas-y-empresariales/)

Transport:

[www.emtmalaga.es/](http://www.emtmalaga.es/)

[www.alsa.es](http://www.alsa.es)