

Personal Report

University of Cádiz, Winter Term 2018/19, 1 Semester Aviation Management, Fachbereich 3, Frankfurt

Language

Which language did you use? How did you communicate with your fellow students?

I and the other exchange students mostly spoke Spanish, although that was quite difficult in the beginning, so we sometimes switched to English instead. In the course of the semester we all improved our Spanish, so in the end we only spoke Spanish. Most of us had a hard time understanding anything in class the first weeks because the people in Cádiz have a very strong dialect, but once you get used to it, it's fine! I'd recommend minimum level B1, better B2, though.

Accommodation

Did the host university arrange for accommodation?

No, unfortunately not.

How high were your overall monthly costs for accommodation (in Euro)?

320€

How would you describe the quality of your accommodation?

Very good.

How well was the accommodation situated? How long did it take you on average to reach the partner university (in minutes)?

My room was situated in the old part of Cádiz, about 15 minutes to go to university.

Which web sites, forums, Facebook pages, contacts, etc. can you recommend for looking for accommodation?

milanuncios, idealista

Where have you been accommodated (name of dormitory, location, part of town, etc.)? And how would you describe the surroundings of your accommodation (shopping facilities, distance to the city center, nightlife, etc.?)

I lived in a flat with 6 other students near the Harbor in the old part of the town. It took me about 5-10 minutes to get to the shops, depending on where you wanted to go. It doesn't really matter where exactly in Cádiz you live, as long as it is in the old part of the town, because everything is at maximum 20 minutes to walk.

Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation

Which is the best arrival time?

I arrived ten days before start of university and that was fine. It gives you enough time to explore the city and look for a flat (which I highly recommend to do in Cádiz, not via the Internet!) and get to know some people. The local Erasmus organizations (ESN & Erasmus Family) usually start about two weeks before the start of the semester with different activities, so it's easier to get to know people.

How did you organize your arrival? Was the extent of the orientation program sufficient? What activities can you recommend? Were all important questions answered? What did you have to find out yourself? How fast were you able to get in contact with the domestic students? How were the services for exchange students?

I slept in a hostel for the first days and started looking for a flat in Cádiz, which worked out very well. I moved to my room after five days, so don't worry about finding a room once you're there. Services of the university were good in general, but they could have explained the evaluation systems and work the students have to do during the semester more detailed. I did not have a lot of contact with Spanish students, but in almost all of my classes there were 5-10 other Erasmus with me.

Living Abroad

Compared to Frankfurt, how high was the cost of living abroad?

Lower, it cost about 75%

What additional expenses did you have during your semester abroad? How far were you able to travel with your semester ticket? How was your student life off-campus? How were the Mensa's/ student cafeterias? What types of meals were served? How much did the meals cost? How were the libraries? Was their use free? Did the university provide computer workplaces/ computer pools? Was Wi-Fi available on-campus? Were you able to use study rooms? Were you able to rent separate rooms for studying? Did the university provide a sports program? Was this free of charge?

The university does not provide a semester ticket, but you won't need it anyway because you can reach everything by feet in Cádiz. If you travel to other places I recommend going by train or blablacar, which is a bit cheaper. The libraries are free of use and there are also rooms for studying which are opened 24/7. Wi-Fi worked very well on campus. The university offers discounts in some sports places.

Studying at the Host University

How would you describe the academic standard of classes compared to Frankfurt?

A little bit more challenging.

Did you experience any difference in teaching methods/ class structure? Which were the difference regarding your expectations and your experiences at the partner university? What surprised you, what should newly arriving students know? How were the student services? Was the fact, that you were an exchange student taken into account (by professors or other staff)? If so, how? How were difficulties, which you or other exchange students may have met, handled by the partner university?

Be prepared that in the faculty of economics, they don't really know the so-called "Erasmus-Bonus". They will just treat you like all the other Spanish students, so I recommend not taking very difficult classes and having a good level of Spanish before arrival. Ask the professors to explain the evaluation system in detail because it is very different to our system in Germany and they usually don't know that.

Final Remarks

What should future exchange students know/ do/ avoid? How would you overall rate your exchange experience? In what ways have you benefitted academically, personally, linguistically for your future career?

University live was much harder, but I would always choose Cádiz again because it has a special atmosphere, great weather even in winter and it's so easy to get to know other people (and of course there's the beach at the faculty!). After a week in Cádiz I already met people I knew on the streets because it's just such a small town. There's a lot of interesting cities nearby such as Córdoba, Granada, Gibraltar... to travel to. I cannot imagine a better place to have spent my Erasmus!