

Personal Report

University of Granada, SoSe 2022, 1 Semester FB 4 – Social Work: transnational - Bachelor

Language

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

In class only Spanish and in my social live quite a lot of English.

How well were you able to follow classes linguistically at the partner institution? Did the partner university provide language classes?

I could follow classes very well. Language classes were provided during the semester.

Accommodation

Did the host university arrange for accommodation? How would you describe the quality of your accommodation?

No, they did not provide accommodations.

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

310€

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

I needed 20 minutes walking to university.

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

Facebook is the best place to look for apartments.

Where have you been accommodated (name of dormitory, location, part of town, etc.)?

I was located in the Street Calle Pedro Antonio de Alarcón which is quite in the center, many bars and nightlife opportunities around. Shopping mile right next to us and groceries too. Also a big park right next to us.

Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation

Which is the best arrival time?

January because the semester begins there.

How did you organize your arrival? 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?

I googled basically everything. There was no real orientation and i never got my mentor. It was very hard to get in contact with domestic students. I would have liked to get a proper orientation around the university, maybe a pub crawl with the local students to connect at the start. Something like that.

Living Abroad

Compared to Frankfurt, how high was the cost of living abroad? What additional expenses did you have during your semester abroad?

50% less than in Frankfurt. I can recommend Mercadona for groceries. Cheaper than in Germany was the rent and the prices of drinks at bars.

How far were you able to travel with your semester ticket? How were the libraries? Was their use free? Did the university provide computer workplaces/ computer pools? Was Wi-Fi available on-campus? Did the university provide a sports program? Was this free of charge?

I wasn't able to travel with the semester ticket, i got no information about that. Or at least i didn't hear about it. My student life off-campus was very active. I never went to the mensas nor libraries. There was wifi on campus and quite good. There were study rooms. I didn't know of any sports programmes or any programs at all really.

Studying at the Host University

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

Less 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?

The big difference was: you had every subject twice a week. One day was theoretical and the other day was practical. You had A LOT of group work and homework. Assistance was mandatory for all subjects. Most exams were multiple choice. The grades are formed through your presence, exams, tests, homework, practical lessons. Newly arriving students from the transnational group should know that it is a lot of work and there is not much free time as you would expect. Teachers are nice but quite strict on the mandatory assistance. Some teachers were considerate that we were exchange students and some didn't care. For the ones that cared, they changed some questions in exams for example. A big problem were the mandatory masks in university: half of us didn't understand what the professor was saying because of them, so we couldn't really follow the class well.

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?

Never take the first apartment if you're not happy with it. There are probably better and cheaper options. Know that you will need a lot of money if you want to experience a lot. Overall trips and going out does drain your bank account pretty quickly. My exchange experience wasn't the best because i was sick most of the time and broke my leg, but i was still able to enjoy in between. They focussed a lot on the humane part of social work here, which i thought was quite interesting and actually very important for social workers. In Germany i feel like it is a lot about facts, documents, law but here it is a lot about how to communicate with your client, how to deal with certain feelings, coping mechanisms, communication styles, etc. And the practical lessons were amazing for that. We did a lot of role play, which actually made everything more realistic and close.