

## Personal Report

### University of Valencia, SoSe 2021/22, 1 Semester FB4 – Social Work - Bachelor

#### Language

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

I used Spanish during my whole exchange period. I had previous knowledge, I took B2 courses at FUAS before coming to Valencia and during my Erasmus, I took the C1 course at the University's language center.

##### **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 and took a crash course there.

#### Accommodation

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

Yes, they offered private accommodation.

##### **How high were your overall monthly costs for accommodation (in euros)?**

600€.

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

I walked every day to the campus, it would take me around 10 to 15 minutes.

##### **Which websites, forums, Facebook pages, contacts, etc. can you recommend for looking for accommodation?**

I looked for accommodation on a Facebook group.

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

I shared the flat with three other Italian girls that were also doing their Erasmus here in Valencia. We had everything nearby, supermarkets, restaurants, and the university. The city center was 30 minutes away by foot and the beach was also half an hour away by foot. Our landlord was very friendly and whenever we needed something he would drop by to assist us. Overall it was a very nice experience.

## **Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation**

### **Which is the best arrival time?**

I think the best arrival time is the weekend before the semester/classes start.

### **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 missed out on the orientation event that was organized by the university because I arrived a day before my classes had started. I couldn't come earlier to Valencia because I also had to finish my classes in Germany and my Internship.

## **Living Abroad**

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

The costs are similar to those in Frankfurt. I often used the App Too Good to Go to get cheap deals. There were extra expenses on flights to and from Valencia.

### **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?**

Public transportation isn't included in our semester ticket like in Germany, so every time I'd take the bus/tram/subway I'd have to pay. Also, for the gym and other sports, I had to pay a semester fee and I also paid for the language course.

## **Studying at the Host University**

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

A lot 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?**

Yeah, I would say I had more workload in Spain. During the semester we had group work, wrote portfolios and at the end, we still had to take exams. In Germany, I never experienced that after writing paperwork / doing presentations, we would have exams as 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, and linguistically for your future career?**

I had a wonderful experience, mostly because I am very open-minded and very communicative, I did not find it hard to make friends to go out with and to travel to new places. I would say that students should come prepared to live out of their comfort zone and try to soak up as many experiences as possible.

My exchange semester will remain unforgettable because of the great people I met and the new things I learned. But also because of the good sunny weather that Spain offered me throughout my stay. It was lovely having the beach so close by!