

Personal Report

Technical University of Madrid, WiSe 2021/22, 1 Semester FB 1 - Architecture, Civil Engineering, Geomatics- Bachelor

Language

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

Mostly Spanish, sometimes English.

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

Ich konnte dem Unterricht sehr gut folgen. Es gab Sprachkurse an der Universität.

Accommodation

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

No, unfortunately the possibility did not exist. The quality of my accommodation very good.

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

400€

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

35-40 min totally. The metro ride was about 20 min + some walking.

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

Badi, Idealista, Spotahome, Housinganywhere, Facebook.

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

Cuatro Caminos. Way quieter than the city centre but not many Erasmus people living nearby. Metro station 6-7 min walking and enough shopping facilities in the neighbourhood..

Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation

Which is the best arrival time?

For the winter semester I would say by the end of August. Classes usually start the first week of September so that should be enough time to settle and get to know the city a little bit. If the accommodation is yet to be found, I would recommend to arrive 3 weeks earlier since finding a well centered, affordable accommodation in Madrid can take some time.

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 arrived a bit later but everything went pretty smooth. I was already in the Whatsapp group of every subject I had so I made sure to keep up with the content and stayed informed until the first day I went to the Uni. After that I got to know the other students and asked them every question I had.

Living Abroad

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

Same as in Frankfurt. I recommend Aldi, Lidl, Mercadona, Carrefour. Besides the monthly rent, transportation was 20 euros/month. Other than that: usual grocery shopping, sometimes other expenses such as eating out, shopping and freetime activities

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 had to pay for public transport. But you can get a discount if you are under the age of 25.

Studying at the Host University

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

A bit harder.

Did you experience any difference in teaching methods/ class structure? Which were the difference regarding your expectations and your experiences at the partner university?

Honestly, I expected the overall level to be much easier. The class structure is completely different than in Frankfurt. During the whole semester there are tests, homework, midterm exams etc that really push you to have a studying routine. The schedule was really exhausting. I had almost everyday classes until 21:30 and sometimes even beginning at 8:15. That left me very little time to enjoy the city during the week or to meet other Erasmus students. In some subjects, the evaluation criteria was absurd. They wanted you to answer exactly how the

professor had said in class, if it was the same in other words, it was marked as wrong. In multiple choice exams, a wrong marked answer meant negative points. In some subjects, if a question was left without an answer, the exam grade was automatically 0, even if the whole rest of the exam was correct. It was easier to fail an exam than expected because of this criteria, even if you were super well prepared. Also it is very theory-oriented.

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?

For non native speakers: improve your language skills as much as possible to be able to keep up with the subjects! It didn't come to my knowledge that foreign students had any favorable handling. I was lucky to speak the language perfectly but I saw other exchange students struggling with the amount of theory and with understanding the tasks/questions.