

Personal Report

University of Valencia - Spain, WiSe 2021/22, 1 Semester FB4 – Social work: transnational - Bachelor

Language

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

I used always Spanish.

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

I could follow the classes well. The university provided language classes during the semester.

Accommodation

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

Yes, they provided dormitories. The quality of the apartment I privately rented was 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)?

I looked for a dormitory myself, because the university dorms were relatively expensive and I had also asked too late. My flat was not central, but nevertheless very well situated (directly at the Ciudad de las artes). It took me 10-15 minutes to get to the university by bus.

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

The application spotahome

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

I lived in the neighborhood monteolvieta. Near me there was everything: bars, cafes, a large shopping center and numerous supermarkets and other stores.

Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation

Which is the best arrival time?

One week before the semester starts.

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?

The orientation programm was sufficient for me. We have received important documents and site plans. In addition, the enrollment went quickly.

Living Abroad

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

It was similar to the costs in Frankfurt. For fruits and vegetables I recommend so-called Fruterias.

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 bought a bike through the app wallapop (like ebay) because sometimes it was easier and faster after all. I also bought a rechargeable bus card at one of the many tobacco stores (similar to lottery/ late store), as this saved me about 80 cents for each bus ride. There are many special offers for Erasmus students in Valencia, whether in discos, bars or travel agencies such as valenciaexchange. There are two libraries at the campus, they are free to use. The staff is very helpful, I was helped a lot in both libraries to find certain books. There was Wi-Fi eduroam on campus, which always worked well.

Studying at the Host University

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

Similar to Frankfurt.

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

I had classes from first semester and last semester. There the demands of the higher semesters were much more demanding. In general, many smaller submissions of essays, group work, presentations or other homework during the semester were a clear difference to the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences.

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?

All the lecturers were very considerate towards the Erasmus students. In two out of six courses we were even regularly asked if we understood everything and that we should contact them as soon as we had any questions.

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?

In the beginning, it can be difficult to find your way around the classes and keep up. It helped me a lot to get to know a fellow student in each class from the beginning. Also, it is good to know that it can be difficult and exhausting to find study groups as most students already have their groups especially in the higher semesters. But all in all, there are people everywhere who are helpful and who you can ask. I would rate my exchange experience as very positive, as I faced a big challenge in the first weeks, but I was able to overcome it. It helped me especially for my personal development and showed me new strengths of mine. Of course, the content of the courses was also very enriching, especially the differences in content between the partner university and my home university. My semester abroad will remain unforgettable because I successfully mastered a challenge. I've gained language improvement in terms of academic level, self-confidence and independence, ability to ask for help.