

Travel Report

GENERAL INFORMATION

What was your semester abroad like?

I agree to the publication of the report and attached photos (there are no third parties rights to these photos)	Yes
New outgoing students sometimes ask us for a way to contact former outgoings. Are we allowed to pass on your contact details in case of inquiries?	Yes
My stay (this information will not be displayed if the report is published)	
Academic year	2022/2023
Start semester	Herbst/Fall 2022/23
Duration in semesters	2
Study program at EUF	BA European Cultures and Society
Subject 1 (only applicable to teacher training students)	
Subject 2 (only applicable to teacher training students)	
Subject 3 (only applicable to teacher training students)	
Host country	Spain
Host university	Universidad de Murcia

YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

How did you prepare for the semester abroad? What should be organized in advance?

My preparation was simple. I followed the instructions included in the EUF presentation for future Erasmus students. This was not enough for someone like me, who is not a EU citizen. A MANDATORY meeting should be required only for students who are non-EU citizens in order to be eligible to go abroad. In said meeting they should be given legal advice about their dubious legal status while in other countries and should also be given clear instructions on what preparations, as well as future things they'll have to do in order to legally come back to Germany after their Erasmus stay is over.

Do you have any recommendations for environmentally friendly travel (if applicable)?

If possible, a train ride that is reasonably simple, not of an unreasonably long duration and similarly priced to other transportation options should always be chosen over other travel methods.

Where did you live and how did you find your accommodation (self-organized/provided by host university, dormitory/private etc.)?

I rented two different rooms, one for each semester. These were shared apartments or "WGs". I wanted to stay at the university's dormitories but they were always full. Living in Murcia was great. Finding accommodation was near impossible. Students should be warned that, at least in Murcia, finding a place to live in can be extremely difficult. They should be given the advice to find an accommodation well before the start of their semester abroad. Also be taught on how to find accommodation in their target country.

Did you participate in events for exchange students? How did you establish social contacts in other ways?

I participated in events for exchange students but I mainly met my Erasmus friends through things like my initial temporary stay at a hostel and also living with my Erasmus roommates from the WGs I used to inhabit.

How satisfied were you with the host university (facilities, staff etc.) and the course offer (workload etc.)?

The staff of the university were great and extremely helpful. The facilities were a bit complicated to navigate since the University is split in two campuses that are quite far away from each other. Other than that the facilities were great. The workload I underwent in my courses was very reasonable.

Did you learn the local language? How important was the language for your stay?

Since Spanish is my mother-tongue, navigating the country was extremely easy for me. However I often found myself having to use English since most of my friends ended up not being Hispanic.

What intercultural experiences/skills have marked your stay?

Learning to navigate a foreign country, even one that speaks a language that you know. In my case specifically, I was forced to learn how to navigate the legal system and policies surrounding foreigners of my target country. While this is an extremely invaluable skill to have, I should have never been put through the things I underwent in order to have learned this.

Which perspectives on your host country/home country have changed - and why?

Many perspectives changed but to me the one that stood out the most was they way my host university taught classes and carried out examinations. To me, the way they did these things came a

How was your everyday life (leisure, shopping, transportation, inclusion etc.)?

Everyday life in Murcia was great for me. There were leisure options, transportation options and people were very helpful to me. However, I believe my perception is skewed since I speak Spanish. I heard from other Erasmus students that didn't speak Spanish that their experience in Murcia was difficult. Mainly because of the language barrier.

Do you have any recommendations for a sustainable stay abroad (projects, initiatives, everyday life)?

Be mindful of your consumption habits. Many Erasmus students end up throwing away a lot of unfinished food and other everyday items when they return to their home countries.

How did you manage financially? How much did you spend on visa (if applicable), travel, accommodation (per month), living expenses, leisure activities, other expenses (books etc.)?

Life in Murcia was extremely affordable, with the exception of accommodation which, although not too expensive, was not very cheap either.

What was your best/worst experience? Is there anything else you would like to share?

Best experience was travelling to Valencia to spend Christmas with a friend. My worst experience was having to deal with school responsibilities while trying to fix my legal status in Spain as a non-EU citizen.

Would you recommend a semester abroad at your host university? For what reasons?

Yes and no. I would highly recommend my University and the city where it's located if it wasn't for one detail. Evaluations in my host university were extremely hard and

PHOTOS

In this section, you may upload some photos that represent your stay abroad. When selecting the photos, please bear in mind that the pictures will be visible online if you have given us the permission to publish your report.

Photo (1)

Photo (2)

Photo (3)

Photo (4)

Photo (5)

Photo (6)

Here you have the possibility to enter descriptions/explanations for the photos