

Erfahrungsbericht

1. Preparation (planning, organization and application at the host university)

I chose to do the Erasmus at the Francisco de Vitoria University, Madrid.

Applying was relatively easy, and once you have everything the erasmus page checklist asks for, everything goes very fast. In addition, everything internal is organized by the university and that makes everything easier. The most difficult thing for me was choosing the subjects, but because I didn't understand which semester was winter and which one was summer semester, because they have different dates than we have in Germany. For example: winter semester starts always in September, but the summer semester starts in January, so I was very confused. Once you're in the university, they'll help you with EVERYTHING.

2. Accommodation in the host country

The house, if I must admit, is difficult to find. I already knew this since I have many friends there, so I decided to go a few months before simply to advance that topic. They always ask you for payrolls, to demonstrate the amount of money you have and that can be a bit annoying, even though there are pages like "spotahome" (website) that always offer options for Erasmus students. I stayed in a flat for myself and I loved it because I'm not a big fan of sharing a flat with strangers. I was a bit lucky, because for this apartment the person didn't ask me for anything that I commented previously, and I simply agreed to keep it. The prices for 30m2 apartments are around 600€, it also depends on the area in which you want to live. I lived in a relatively central area named Quintana.

I highly recommend looking a little before your move to Madrid where you want to live. I found mine on "idealista" (website) and if it is with a private individual and not with an agency it's better, that way you don't have to pay agency fees

3. Study at the host university

I loved the university, from the subjects to the professors and the areas.

Very different from BTU. It is a private university and the treatment of students is much more direct and personal. They even give you their whatsapp just in case you have a question regarding the subject. They are generally 15-20 people per room. The students are very friendly, it is very easy to make friends. Since day 1 I already had my group.

I study architecture and in Erasmus at UFV I learned a lot! They taught me so much, they solved all my doubts, my colleagues also helped me. I like the way they teach and the things they teach in that university, way more than in the BTU; maybe because it's private and they have different methods. All the machines and materials you need are very modern. I believed, like a 90% of the subjects are in Spanish, but if you don't understand so much, they understand your situation and what I saw is that they'll help you with any doubts you have or if you need something else like material to study, they'll give it to you.

4. Everyday life and leisure

I think this time, the Erasmus experience was different from what it could have been in other previous years.

At first, I went out a lot: bars, parks, restaurants; until the coronavirus appeared and we were in quarantine for a long time, locked up; doing nothing. I must say, to go out is cheaper than in Germany and there's always something to do in Madrid. I recommend going to a terrace named "Dona Luz", "Budda Burrito" and "Terraza de Cibeles" (where you'll have the most beautiful view of Madrid in a terrace).

Luckily, my friends lived nearby and sometimes I went to their house and stayed with them or they came to mine.

Despite the virus, the university never stopped: Exams were online, classes were also online, we kept our schedules. I think they knew how to organize themselves very well.

On the other hand, in addition to studying, I also worked.

Finding a job was not easy at all. But thanks to the fact that I speak German, English and Spanish, I found a job in a call center adapted to my study schedule. I found it on the indeed website.

Indeed and Infojobs pages are widely used here. So, in case you want to look for a job as well I recommend those two. After the coronavirus crisis, I started working at home which was cool.

If you don't speak any Spanish, it is difficult to communicate since not everybody speaks English here. But the Spanish people are very kind and nice, so if they don't understand you, maybe they'll try with signals, that's what I saw with my colleagues.

To conclude, I want to say that doing an Erasmus was the best decision I've ever made. I met so many people, I learned so much: in the personal and professional area. I highly recommend this, you'll learn a lot and it's a great experience.